

### Commentary on Short .

An informative piece for children of this age needs to be eye-catching, but also interesting enough to hold their attention as they read, and the graphology of the piece can affect this.

Each new piece of writing has its own separate box, to help give clarity to the reader. The child is able to see each new piece of writing, alongside an image to give them an insight into what each little piece is about. These images are also to aid with illustrating the point of the written text. They add clarity to the text.

Sub-headings and headings are a particularly good way to separate ideas, and again provide clarity. The use of headings on the different elements gives the reader an introduction, before beginning to read. Not only do they provide an introduction, but they can also be memorable, and used as trigger phrases. They can relate to what the sub-heading is referring to.

The use of colour is another good way of drawing attention to the page. Children will be drawn more to read colourful eye-catching text, rather than plain text. The multi-coloured titles are also in keeping with the Circus theme.

Using pictures and images breaks up the text, again making the page more attractive and interesting for the reader. They also stimulate the child. They can then relate to the picture having learnt something about it from the text. So most of the graphology side of the piece have two effects, to trigger the readers' thoughts, and interest them.

However, the graphology is not the only part of the piece. The lexical and grammatical side of the piece are a major part.

Particularly in an informative piece for such a young audience, the use of short words and simple sentences helps them to understand the text which they are reading. Every big word is clarified in the passive voice to help the reader understand. The image is created in a simplified way, and then the technical term is added.

Throughout the piece determiners such as, "the", "and", and "a" are repeated. These again are in keeping with the simplicity of the piece. They are not overwhelmed with grammar and phrasal structure that they have not met or are not used to meeting before.

The field specific lexis also plays a large part in the tone of the piece. Without the inclusion of words such as 'clown' and 'perform' the piece would not sound correct. Hence the inclusion of field

specific lexis is vital. These particular words are suitable for this piece, because of the younger audience, and informative purpose. The lexis has to be simplified, however had it been for an older audience, then the lexis could be much more complicated.

This leads onto the tenor of the piece. Due to the educational supplement that the piece is designed for, the level of formality is quite low. It is a very informal piece, even though 'The Guardian' is quite a formal newspaper. Then again if the piece had been written for an A-Level Theatre Studies text book, then the level of formality would have to be altered accordingly.

The major criticism of this piece is that it is not as full a page as exemplary pieces that I read for research. However, this could be altered in industry. The language side of the piece is correct.