Pre-writing MODEL

Choose your genre: ❑ fiction 🗹 drama

In one to two sentences explain what your whole piece is about:

It’s about the 1918 flu epidemic with a focus on how it affects one immigrant Irish family in Philadelphia, an area especially ravaged. A large family, the O’Malleys struggle as the youngest of 5 children—twin girls—contract the flu.

Now, consider ONE PART of your story that you want to tell in about 1-1 ½ typed pages. In one to two sentences summarize this part:

I’ll take a look at the scene in which the doctor visits, because that establishes tension once he declares sickness in the house. This moves the story toward the climax of flu-related deaths.

Identify 2-3 aspects from either your prior knowledge or your research that you wish to incorporate into your excerpted piece.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ASPECT | PURPOSE (what do you hope to convey/achieve by incorporating that aspect?) |
| Doctor makes a house call to the O’Malley’s apartment | Helps to hint at an earlier time period, since today people take sick children to an actual doctor’s office. |
| Children have a fever, are tired, and have been coughing | This reflects the actual symptoms of the flu, which included fever, coughing, muscle aches, fatigue, bleeding, and skin discoloration (from lack of oxygen) |
| Treatment attempts | Quinine was sometimes used, but when pharmacies couldn’t stock enough medication, people also turned to home remedies like soup. Also, quarantine was recommended to prevent further spreading/contraction. |

Generate 2-3 examples of figurative language (simile, hyperbole, personification, imagery, metaphor) to incorporate into your piece and what effect they will produce.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE DEVICE | PURPOSE (what do you hope to convey/achieve by incorporating that?) |
| dialect | Language of a typical Irish immigrant family is imitated to give a very specific identify to someone who suffered from the effects of the pandemic. |
| sound imagery | A child giggling helps the reader connect to the child’s innocence and the unfairness of her position as a soon-to-be victim of the pandemic. This evokes the reader’s sympathy and creates a sense of hope. |
| personification | One of the young boys of the family, in his innocent misunderstanding, thinks of the flu as a person come to harm his family. Like in Poe’s story, the disease as a person makes it seem more menacing. |

Generate 2-3 examples of genre conventions (symbol, conflict, characterization, theme, irony, setting, props, sounds, stage directions, dialogue) to incorporate into your piece and what effect they will produce.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GENRE CONVENTION | PURPOSE (what do you hope to convey/achieve by incorporating that?) |
| Stage directions | The directions can help to develop a portrait of the O’Malleys: how they live, how they interact with each, and how they react to the presence of illness. |
| props | The doctor’s medical bag positions him as an expert on the scene, armored to fight the flu. |
|  |  |