

HSC English Advanced Module C: The Craft of Writing – Eulogy for Gough Whitlam

How have writers used language creatively and imaginatively for a range of purposes?

Shape a perspective – Eulogy for Gough Whitlam (N Pearson)

Pearson's eulogy for ex-Prime Minister Gough Whitlam uses language to share a perspective on his subject. Pearson does this by imaginatively developing a picture in the audience's mind that portray the subject in a certain way. "And the Prime Minister with that classical Roman mien, one who would have been as naturally garbed in a toga as a safari suit, stands imperiously with twinkling eyes..." displays Pearson's use of language, using the symbolism and images of Ancient Rome, to share a perspective of Whitlam as a loving, protecting Roman Emperor. This empirical view of the subject allows his legacy to be understood in a more defined way. Whitlam is described as a champion of the people, legislating education and health care reforms, all under the perspective of a benevolent Roman Emperor.