

Comparison of Heart of Darkness to Other Works

Inspiration

Heart of Darkness



An illustration depicting Huck Finn and Jim on a raft. Jim, on the left, is a Black man with a beard, wearing a red shirt and dark pants, leaning forward and holding a long wooden pole. Huck, on the right, is a white boy wearing a blue shirt, red pants, and a straw hat, leaning back and pointing towards the right. The raft is on a river with a wooden building in the background. The text "Huckleberry Finn" is overlaid in the center.

Huckleberry Finn



Peter Pan the Story of Peter and Wendy

Writing Style

Peter Pan the Story of Peter and Wendy

“All children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy”

Huckleberry Finn

“You don’t know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain’t no matter.”

Heart of Darkness

“The Nellie, a cruising yawl, swung to her anchor without a flutter of the sails, and was at rest.”

Jargon in Heart of Darkness

- Yawl – a two-masted sailing vessel
- Thwarts – planks in ships used as seats
- Stanchion – a vertical post for support (ships)
- Painter – a line (rope) on the bow of a vessel used to secure it
- Bow/stern – front/back of a ship, respectively
- Bulkhead – a wall separating compartments on a ship

Use of a Frame Narrative in Heart of Darkness

- Story is told in dialogue of main story
- Adds subtle parallels
 - Darkening weather
 - Rising tides
- Main narrator's development shown

Examples of a Frame Narrative in Heart of Darkness

I will never hear that chap speak after all' -- and my sorrow

Marlow stops narrating his own story and speaks to crew

had a startling extravagance of emotion, even such as I had noticed in the howling sorrow of these savages in the bush. I couldn't have felt more of lonely desolation somehow, had I been robbed of a belief or had missed my destiny in life... Why do

you sigh in this beastly way, somebody? Absurd? Well, absurd. Good Lord! mustn't

a man ever -- Here, give me some tobacco."...

Marlow stops talking to crew, and the original narrator resumes

There was a pause of profound stillness, then a match flared, and Marlow's lean face

appeared, worn, hollow, with downward folds and dropped eyelids, with an aspect of concentrated attention; and as he took vigorous draws at his pipe, it seemed to retreat and advance out of the night in the regular flicker of tiny flame. The match went out.

We can see what Marlow looks like

Examples of a Frame Narrative in Heart of Darkness

New speakers are generally given new paragraphs. The lack is confusing.

Two pilgrims were quarrelling in hurried whispers as to which bank. 'Left.' 'No, no; how can you? Right, right, of course.' 'It is very serious,' said the manager's voice behind me; 'I would be desolated if anything should happen to Mr. Kurtz before we came up.' I looked at him, and had not the slightest doubt he was sincere.

A new speaker is introduced within the same paragraph

Some Interesting Statistics: Word Counts

- Brood: 9
- Gloom: 14
- Death: 20
- Black: 45
- White: 46
- Hippo: 7
- Rot: 25
- Marlow: 10
- Kurtz: 121
- Heart: 95
- Dark:

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