

ENGLISH – NINE DAYS WRITER’S STATEMENT

Writer’s Statement

Based on the novel “Nine days” by Toni Jordan, my first-person narrative titled ‘Falling in, falling out’ explores the themes of gender roles, the impact of war and sacrifice for family. My intended audience is a young female audience who were confused, uncomfortable or against Connie’s abortion. By looking further into Connie’s abortion and her thought process, the purpose of the piece is for readers to have a better understanding of her struggle when choosing whether to prioritise family or her personal happiness. Although contemporary readers with a modern mindset may be against the abortion, Toni Jordan situated the novel in the mid-1900s therefore, is important to remember the societal values and expectations and Connie’s decision was made in hopes of maintaining her family’s current situation. By adopting Connie’s perspective in a first-person perspective, I was able to explore how she feels towards Jack and her family in order to question Jordan’s message of the abortion being acceptable. Emblematic of Jordan is her use of descriptive language and imagery and my piece aims to closely mimic her way of adding small details, which creates a vivid yet realistic scene. I’ve included a combination of similes such as ‘like a dam made out of sticks’ and ‘like freshly made jam’ – this figurative imagery has been used with the intentions of imitating Jordan’s description of everyday experiences. Onomatopoeia has also been used for the same purpose. In my story, Connie describes her experiences with her family and her memory of them together as very detailed, this is to show the importance of their time together. Specifically highlighting the scene with the bending hinges in which Connie creates an entire scenario in her head with her mother and brothers, this demonstrates her love for family.

I included the motif of the photograph which was used throughout Jordan’s novel. The photograph serves as a symbol of the impacts of war. I have interpreted the photograph to be one of hope and longing. However, after his death, the significance of the photograph shifts. Rather than being one of hope, it is something which clings to something no longer possible. Throughout the story, Connie transitions through the stages of realising this. At the end of the story, Connie decides to move on from her position simply longing for Jack and chooses to prioritise her immediate family.

By including a quote from the novel, “Let me kiss you, Connie. I’d die a happy man” I intentionally question whether he died a happy man because by going to war, he left Connie behind. Contrasting how Jack may have felt because of the war, Connie was distraught having to choose between both options. This is the impact war has on women waiting for men to return from their enlistment. I also contrasted Jean’s role to Connie’s role – both of them had maternal roles to fulfil. Connie has been characterised as a woman who would sacrifice anything for her family, similarly to Jean. I used a run off sentence when Connie realises that the baby is alive to show the possibility of keeping the baby alive, I have used this to challenge Jordan’s portrayal of the fixed gender roles. However, these challenging thoughts were overridden by Jean’s yelling, which symbolises family having a pivotal role in her life.