

ENGLISH STANDARD: MODULE C

Into the World: 'Educating Rita'

27th June 2010

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To The Hon Julia Gillard MP,

I am writing to you today in response to the PM radio report titled 'Second Chance for students at risk'. I found this report to be highly relevant to my current HSC studies in English, which are focused on the play Educating Rita by Willy Russell and how it links to the topic 'Into the World'. I would like to comment on the PM report as well as offer advice based on what the module I have been studying has taught me. The play Educating Rita and the report 'Second Chance for students at risk' both express different pathways one can take into new experiences or new phases of life illustrating that entering a new world cannot be satisfying unless you engage with it and grow as an individual, this message is given meaning through the use of language, auditory and dramatic techniques.

Going into the world involves a transition from one world to another this journey is often easier if one has support or is helped along the way. The PM radio report titled 'Second Chance for students at risk' as you are aware present's information on how those who have not completed their schooling are being directed by the Exodus Foundation towards a better future. Bill Crews the chairman of the Exodus foundation is interviewed in the report and States why he is helping these kids "But basically there's a huge number of kids who don't fit in the school system, don't fit in the traditional family system and a hanging around in a cloud who need some sort of help to get out of it." The use of the metaphor shows how those who do not go into the world are stuck where they are in life and cannot move forward moreover the repetition of the word "don't" indicates the notion that these kids do not have much support to change the predicament they are in, in addition the change in the tone of voice when the word "don't" is repeated for the second time, to a louder and serious tone stresses the extent of the situation making sure it is noticeable as well as emphasising help is need for them to get out of the world that is holding them back. Robyn Clarke-Pearce is a student who due to the support she is being given is going down the right pathway in terms of education and moving into the new world. "Yeah it is. A bit scary, but I'm really happy people were able to notice me and give me the second chance, which I wanted." Robyn Clarke-Pearce makes it clear she is thankful for the chance she has been given this is evident from her appreciative tone of voice this is further emphasised by the pause before saying "give me the second chance, which I wanted" the pause allowed me to stop and hear the sincerity in her voice, this in conjunction with the use of the personal pronoun when stating "second chance, which I wanted" makes clear she desired this opportunity but could not achieve it without the support she required. Thus it is evident that the Exodus foundation is clearly steering young people in the right direction when it comes to choosing a pathway to lead them into a new world and through the foundations help and support the students they are teaching are satisfied with the world they have an opportunity to be a part of.

One needs to be motivated as well as experience a measure of success in order to continue the struggle to enter the new world. My understanding of the play Educating Rita has lead me to understand that the process of entering a new world helps you to grow as an individual, for this to occur one must first overcome the challenges of moving into the world in which the desire to be a part of. Youths who have dropped out of school like Robyn Clarke-Pearce who states "I already had dropped out" have lost the desire to learn and must therefore be motivated to return to education and see progress in themselves if they return to education. In the play Educating Rita, Rita returns

to education through an Open University program, in scene two we are shown just how determined she is when Frank her tutor questions her desire “are you sure that you’re absolutely serious about wanting to learn?”

“I’m dead serious. Look, I know I take the piss an’ that but I’m dead serious really.” The use of the high modality of “dead serious” expresses with strength and certainty Rita’s determination making it known that it is necessary for her to be there this is further highlighted by its repetition making her motivation clear and that the continuation of her learning is crucial to her. Frank gives her the opportunity to leave and she dismisses it due giving rise to the idea that it is her motivation keeping her from giving up and not continuing her journey into a new world. In scene four of the play Rita writes an essay and experiences a bit of success in her academic study “I’ve done it”

“You’ve done it?”

She hands him the essay (reads aloud).....

He looks up she beams him a satisfied smile. The use of the line “I’ve done it” shows her self-confidence that she has achieved and the use of the personal pronoun manifests the idea that she may have achieved something measurable on her own. The use of the stage direction “she beamed him a satisfied smile” gives a visual indication that she has achieved and her smile reveals her fulfilment in having achieved success in the academic world and furthers the idea that by making progress one is providing an accomplishment that will encourage one to stay motivated. My advice would therefore be that it does not matter what type of education path students who have dropped out take as long as they stay motivated and engage with their learning so that they make progress, so that they are satisfied with the new world they are stepping into.

PM radio report ‘Second Chance for students at risk’ and the play Educating Rita by Willy Russell stress the importance of making the transition into new phases or better things but evidently choosing to stepping into the world. In my opinion the texts show the satisfaction and fulfilment that can be achieved through engaging in ones learning. Both text show the different pathways one can take when journeying into their new world, whether it is with the support of others or through one’s own motivation it is made clear one must achieve growth and fulfilment as an individual to have successfully moved into the world.

Kind regards,
Student