

**UNDERSTANDING RHETORIC
AND RHETORICAL DEVICES:
EXAMPLES FROM "THE HOUSE
ON MANGO STREET"**





What is Rhetoric?

- The art of effective speaking or writing.
- Used to persuade, inform, or motivate audiences.
- Found in speeches, literature, advertisements, and everyday communication.
- Helps writers and speakers connect with their audience.
- Used throughout "The House on Mango Street" to tell Esperanza's story.



The Three Rhetorical Appeals

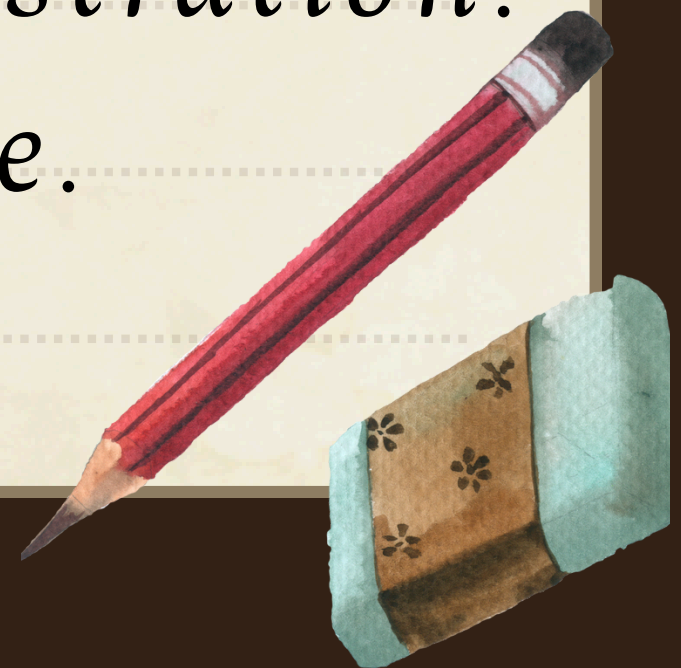
- *Ethos: Appeal to credibility or character*
- *Pathos: Appeal to emotions*
- *Logos: Appeal to logic and reason*

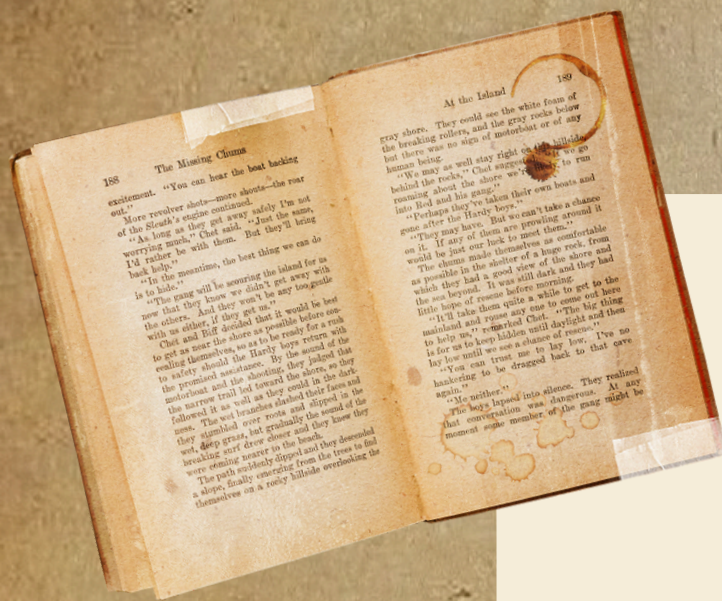
Example from the book:

"Those who don't know any better come into our neighborhood scared." (Shows all three appeals: establishes narrator's credibility, appeals to emotion about prejudice, and presents logical observation)

PATHOS IN "THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET"

- Creates emotional connections with readers.
- Example: "But the house on Mango Street is not the way they told it at all. It's small and red with tight steps in front..."
- Shows disappointment and broken dreams
- Makes readers feel Esperanza's sadness and frustration.
- Helps us understand her desire for a better home.





LOGOS IN "THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET"

- Uses reasoning and facts to make points.
- Example: "We had to leave the flat on Loomis quick. The water pipes broke and the landlord wouldn't fix them..."
- Presents clear cause-and-effect relationships.
- Helps readers understand why things happen.
- Makes the story's events believable.

ETHOS IN "THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET"

- Establishes the narrator's credibility.
- Example: "I am a Mexican girl who doesn't want to belong to her neighborhood..."
- Shows Esperanza's honest perspective.
- Creates trust with readers.
- Makes her observations more powerful.



RHETORICAL DEVICES: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- Similes and metaphors
- Personification
- Imagery

Example: "Until then I am a red balloon, a balloon tied to an anchor." (metaphor showing feeling trapped)



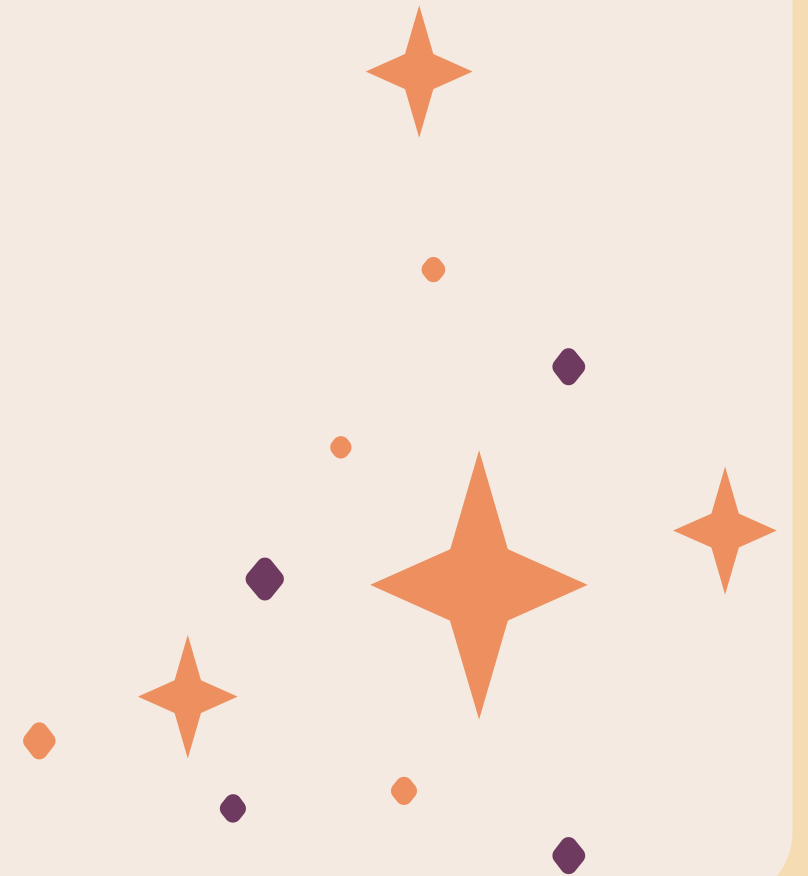
Zeugma in Context

- A word applies to multiple parts of a sentence in different ways.
- Creates clever connections.
- Example from literature: "She caught the bus and my heart."
- Shows how one word can have multiple meanings.
- Makes writing more interesting and memorable.

Putting It All Together

- Rhetorical devices work together to create meaning.
- Example: "My house would be white with trees around it, a great big yard and grass growing without a fence."
- Uses imagery (pathos).
- Shows logical planning (logos).
- Reveals character's values (ethos).

Paraphrasing and Summarizing: Maintaining Objectivity





Understanding Paraphrasing

- **Paraphrasing means restating someone's ideas in your own words.**
- **Keeps the same meaning but uses different vocabulary and sentence structure.**

Example from "The House on Mango Street":

Original: "The house on Mango Street is ours, and we don't have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise."

Paraphrase: The family finally has their own home on Mango Street, giving them independence and freedom from the restrictions of renting.

The Art of Summarizing

- Summarizing condenses longer text into main points
- Captures essential ideas while omitting details
- Usually 1/4 length of original text

Example from "The House on Mango Street"

Original: (Entire "House on Mango Street" vignette)

Summary: A young girl describes her family's new house on Mango Street, expressing both disappointment that it's not the dream home they wanted and acceptance that it's better than their previous living situations.

Two blue butterflies with orange and black markings on their wings are positioned on the left side of the slide, one above the other.

Maintaining Objectivity

- Avoid personal opinions or judgments
- Use neutral language
- Focus on facts and evidence
- Remove emotional language

Example: Instead of "Esperanza hates her awful house," write "Esperanza expresses dissatisfaction with her new home"



Tips for Success

- Read the original text carefully multiple times
- Identify main ideas before writing
- Use your own words consistently
- Check that you haven't added personal interpretations
- Verify that key information is preserved
- Remember: Both skills help develop reading comprehension and writing abilities

