

Speech! Speech!

Name: _____

The tragic death of Tod Clifton bears a strong significance in Ellison's existential coming-of-age novel, *Invisible Man*. The speech that Invisible Man gives after Clifton's death signifies yet another change in this young man's life and personal growth. Per usual, Ralph Ellison utilizes numerous literary elements to convey layers of meaning for his readers.

Reacquaint yourself with this speech and annotate it by identifying literary elements. Find examples of these devices and annotate them in the text. On this organizer, list the most significant elements that you find. My advice to you is to 1) complete the annotation first (preferably including analysis in your annotation), 2) complete the first two columns for your most significant elements, and 3) *then* decide for yourself what Ellison's rhetorical purpose is for the excerpt. This will put you in a very strong place as you complete the third column.

Use the Elements Guide to help you (on the website; was also included in your Summer Workshop).

Elements may include but not limited to:

syntax	diction
anaphora	metaphor
allusion	rhyme
simile	metonymy
repetition	synecdoche

This process and practice will prepare you for the following AP skills:

Reading for Analysis: analyze a literary text to identify and explain how its components (literary elements, plot, and topics) lead to a greater theme
Communication in Writing: compose analytical responses to literature while utilizing a deep textual analysis to support an argument

***** Answer this question before working on third column:
 In your own opinion, what is the rhetorical purpose of the speech in the novel?

Device + Textual evidence	Effect of this on the passage	How does this contribute to the rhetorical purpose of this excerpt?
<p><i>Example:</i> Syntax (questions) <i>Rapid procession of multiple questions to the crowd; prior to the speech, he was wondering why they were there (also includes use of questions).</i></p> <p><i>To himself:</i></p> <p><i>“What were they waiting to hear?” . . . “Why hadn't they come when they could have stopped it all?” . . .</i></p> <p><i>To the crowd:</i></p> <p><i>“What are you waiting for me to tell you?” . . . “What good will it do?” . . . “Or do you expect to see some magic, the dead rise up and walk again?”</i></p> <p><i>“Can I say in twenty minutes what was building twenty-one years and ended in twenty seconds?” [this one uses repetition as well]</i></p>	<p><i>Invisible Man poses these questions to the gathering crowd in a much less calculated manner than that of other Brotherhood speeches for which he had prepared what he would say or, at least, he had the confidence that he would say what the Brotherhood wanted him to say. In this case, IM was unprepared for his speech and his internal questioning quickly followed by outward questioning to the crowd signifies his own frustration and confusion about the death of Tod Clifton. The final question repeats the number “twenty” to emphasize the briefness of time and the rhetorical nature of his question, compared with the inquisitive nature of the others (“What are you waiting for me to tell you?”), signifies his incline towards certainty. Becoming more sure of himself and his cathartic anger as he speaks, he asks a rhetorical question implying that “twenty minutes” is too brief of a time to speak of Clifton's brief “twenty-one” years of life and his even more brief death, which tragically took that life in a mere “twenty seconds” (455).</i></p>	<p><i>As Invisible Man poses the questions to himself and the crowd, he is initially unsure of what to make of Tod Clifton's death. However, he becomes more sure of himself, the death of Clifton, the significance of the crowd, and his existential situation as he goes on with his speech since his syntax changes from questioning to other sentence structures. Invisible Man's syntax changes with every phase of his speech – each form signifying a different stage of his self-awareness. With regard to how this element addresses Ellison's rhetorical purpose for this excerpt, Invisible Man's questioning, both internal and external, indeed signifies _____.</i></p>

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