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### Literary Devices of "The Day"

Do you ever wonder if you should go for it, pursue an opportunity, take that chance you can't stop thinking about? Because if you don't, it might slip away. That moment will disappear never to be seen again and everything will be over before you realize what's happening. What you do in your life is important, but how long you wait to do it means more. In, "The Day", Geoffrey Brock uses the stylistic devices of diction, figurative language, and sound to urge readers to make the most of everything before it's all gone.

This poem's use of diction includes vague words to get the poem's message across without describing a certain subject. "at the edge of a darkening thicket." (lines 3-4) the author says notably using "thicket" instead of shrubbery or brush because it has more of a mysterious tone pulling the reader in. He further attracts the reader to the secrecy by first using "darkening" to shroud the meaning even more. Brock never presents a literal subject as he uses "it" five times to maintain an unspecific subject that is being pursued. To exhibit that the idea he is going after is a good looking or attractive one he describes it as "swelling and blushing and ripe" (lines 5-6) and makes "it" sound appetizing.

Brock then gives a small amount of clarity to the subject when he states, “and evening comes on fast” (lines 11- 12) by giving the reader just enough information to infer that he is talking about a day. To finish the poem, Brock ends with, “And now it’s my fingers ripening and evening that’s reaching for them.” (lines 21-24) connecting to the poem’s purpose that if you wait to do something, those years you delay your action will catch up to you.

“The Day” utilizes a large quantity of figurative language, as the entire poem is a metaphor. Brock begins with, “It hangs on its stem like a plum” (lines 1-2) starting off with a simile comparing the subject with a fruit, specifically a plum. This makes the poem more appealing at the same time as helping readers of all ages understand the theme with more ease. The author continues with, “It’s swelling and blushing and ripe” (lines 5-6) which is a metaphor to show that a ripe plum is promising just as the beginning of a day or one’s life. This is yet another connection to the theme of going after opportunistic moments which Brock continuously conveys throughout the poem. “and just when I think my fingers might seize that sweetness at last” (lines 13-16) is the next stanza as he continues the plum metaphor comparing the sweet taste of a ripe plum to the benefits readers will reap by seizing what is being presented to them. The next four lines is a piece of figurative language describing what will happen if the reader doesn’t go for it. “the gentlest of breezes rises and the plum lets go of the stem.” (lines 17-20) The metaphor contained in these lines suggests that everything will slip away unless the reader takes action immediately on whatever it is they are being presented with. Brock starts off his final stanza with, “And now

it's my fingers ripening" (lines 21-22), which is another part of the plum comparison as he uses "ripen" which is what fruit do. This shows that now that he missed his chance he's getting older. He finishes the poem with, "and evening that's reaching for them." (lines 23- 24) this is a prime example of personification as an evening doesn't have any arms to grab you. Brock uses this final piece of figurative language to emphasize that the end of the day, life, moment, etc. will come quick.

Brock's use of sound is very obvious as the rhythm of the poem changes frequently to go along with the multiple rhymes. The end of every stanza rhymes with the previous one, "thicket/pick it", "fast/last", "stem/them" creating a conjoined feeling that matches the idea of the poem being one big, continuous piece of figurative language. "and just when I think my fingers might seize that sweetness at last" (lines 13- 16) is the climax of the poem and the rhythm is quick which shifts dramatically in the next stanza as it slows down to help accentuate the sadness of the event, "the gentlest of breezes rises and the plum lets go of the stem." (lines 17- 20) This sadness is the same one that the author portrays will happen if the reader just stands and watches instead of taking action. The climax also contains alliteration, "seize that sweetness" (lines 15-16) which adds more excitement to the fact that Brock is so close to achieving his goal. The repetition he uses is small yet purposeful as he writes the word "evening" (line 11 and 23) twice. You may think this repetition is insignificant but the word evening means not only the end of a day, but also the end of the opportunity that Brock has wasted by waiting or lingering for too long. This is the

theme that all three types of stylistic devices Brock uses have helped portray throughout the poem.

“The Day” by Geoffrey Brock uses strong diction, large-scale figurative language, and obvious sound to educate alarm readers that they must act soon. The poem’s powerful message teaches readers that making the most out of everything is the best thing to do, because you never know when you will get another chance.