# Student Worksheets: 19th Century Texts

# Invasion

### Activity 1

**a)** Read Lord Wolseley’s memo about the dangers of invasion a Channel Tunnel could lead to. Can you find examples of the following in the extract?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Emotive language |  |
| Hyperbolic language |  |
| Emotive adjectives/adverbs |  |
| Modals |  |
| Imperatives |  |
| Figurative language |  |
| Personification |  |
| Euphemism |  |
| Semantic generalisation |  |
| Balance |  |

**Embolden** all your examples in the textand then move on to the activity on the next page.

**b)** For each of your examples choose the one that persuades you the most powerfully that the Channel Tunnel will result in an invasion and write it in the “Strongest example” column in the table below.

Give each of the examples a mark out of 10 according to which persuades **you** the most that the Channel Tunnel is a dangerous idea (10 being the most persuasive).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Linguistic device** | **Strongest example** | **Mark out of 10** |
| Emotive language |  |  |
| Hyperbolic language |  |  |
| Emotive adjectives |  |  |
| Modals |  |  |
| Imperatives |  |  |
| Figurative language |  |  |
| Personification |  |  |
| Euphemism |  |  |
| Semantic generalisation |  |  |
| Balance |  |  |

Using a computer, enlarge the font size of the words accordingly. For instance if the font size is 10 to begin with and you have given your example a 1 out of 10, then enlarge the font size to 12, a 2 out of 10 enlarge the font size to 14, a 3 out of 10 enlarge the font size to 16 etc. If you have given your example a 10 out of 10, increase the font size to 30.

Compare the results with your classmates. Which words or phrases are the biggest? Did you agree?

### Extension activity

**a)** How does Wolseley persuade us the Channel Tunnel is a bad idea?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mode of Persuasion** | **Quotation** | **Number of times used** |
| Logos |  |  |
| Pathos |  |  |
| Ethos |  |  |

**b)** Plot a pie chart on the end of the tunnel below, recording your results. Which mode of persuasion does Wolseley use the most?

### Writing activity

Write your own ending to Lord Wolseley’s memo choosing a more dramatic/terrifying scenario than Lord Wolseley imagines that might persuade people against the Channel Tunnel. You could use some of the rhetorical devices Wolseley uses.

### Activity 2

**a)** Look at the film still, music video excerpt and film poster here:

A cityscape in Ridley Scott’s 1982 science fiction film *Blade Runner*, based on Philip K Dick’s novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

<http://www.englishscholar.com/AMST1/bladerunner.htm>

Film clip montage set to *Invaders Must Die* by The Prodigy.   
Watch the excerpt of this YouTube video from 0.50 to 1.03.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULyiE6-W0ro>

A poster for*Attack the Block*, a film by Joe Cornish about a teenage street gang in South London defending their block from an alien invasion

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/movies/at-the-movies/a310650/poster-joe-cornishs-attack-the-block.html>

**b)** What do these three have in common with *The War of the Worlds* / *The Siege of London* extract(s)?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of work** | **Imagery** | **Effect** |
| The War of the Worlds |  |  |
| The Siege of London |  |  |
| Blade Runner |  |  |
| Invaders Must Die |  |  |
| Attack the Block |  |  |

What was the purpose of Lord Wolseley’s memorandum?

Did HG Wells have a similar purpose in writing *The War of the Worlds*?

Does setting the story in England and using recognisable place names help to achieve this purpose?

How does using a recognisable context help to create impact?

### Creating impact

Can you find examples of the following in *The War of the Worlds* extract?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Device** | **Example** | **Purpose** |
| Tricolon |  |  |
| Polysyndeton (Lists joined by conjunctions where usually there would be commas) |  |  |
| Repetition |  |  |
| Figurative language |  |  |
| A short sentence following a long sentence |  |  |
| Dramatic adjective |  |  |
| Realism |  |  |
| Anaphora |  |  |

Are any of these devices similar to the rhetorical ones that Wolseley used to persuade?

### Writing activity

Now have a look at the different spins on the invasion story below and then write your own. It could be a short story, a faux-historical account, a memorandum to Parliament, song lyrics etc.

You may wish to:

* use a recognisable setting to offset your fantastical story
* include rhetorical and/or literary devices for impact.

**Invasion of the Body Snatchers**

*Invasion of the Body Snatchers* is a film that has been remade and updated several times. Spores from outer space invade the bodies of the earth’s inhabitants, causing them to sink into comas while zombie-like clones grow and take their place. The alien clones show no emotion.

* *The Invasion*, 2007

A trailer for the latest reboot of the *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* story, starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s15PvvAt4lo>

**Ziggy Stardust a.k.a. David Bowie**

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/__data/assets/image/0011/172559/bowie_aladin_sane_1000px.jpg>

In 1972 David Bowie’s alien rock and roll alter-ego Ziggy Stardust appeared. Narrating the BBC4 documentary *David Bowie and the Story of Ziggy Stardust*, Jarvis Cocker says: “40 years ago in millions of living rooms across the British Isles a strange alien creature was beamed onto our television screens. With bright red hair and multi-coloured space suit his unearthly appearance shocked the nation. But for many teenagers who experienced this televisual visitation it would change their lives forever.”

By having an alien that played rock and roll was Bowie doing something similar to HG Wells when he set his alien invasion story in London?

**Edward Snowden**

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/edward-snowden>

In 2013 NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden leaked thousands of classified files which uncovered several global surveillance and data-mining programmes, including the bulk collection of private webcam images, real-time monitoring of social networks and trillions of device-location records.