
4 REPRESENTATION

Briefly explain how the concept of “justice” is represented in this story. What social conflict is represented?

5 WHY

What social purpose do you think was achieved by the construction of this story?

6 WHO BY

- Which narrative perspective is used to tell the story? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using this method of storytelling?
- What did you learn about the narrator’s real feelings about her sister, her lover and her sister’s murderer?
- What did the language suggest to you about how the world should be but isn’t?

7 HOW WELL

- Does the text contain a good story idea?
- Has the story been told in a persuasive way?
- What is the meaning of surreal? Does the surreal quality of the narrative style appeal to you?
- What other aspects of the story do you like or dislike?

8 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- What is this story criticising and valuing about the context in which it is written?
- Did the composer win your sympathy and understanding for her perspective?
- Have you read another story that has shown a perspective on the impact of a crime? How is the story similar or different to ‘The Space Between’?

9 READING JOURNAL

- In your reading journal, explain how the impact of an aspect of justice is represented in Frances Simmons’s short story ‘The Space Between’. (300 words)
- Briefly reflect on how your reading of the short story contributed to your understanding of the concept of “justice”. (50-100 words)

Composing a short story

- Write your own story for *The Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer of the Year Award. Your story must be original and represent the concept of “justice” in some way. (700-1,000 words)

HOW TO

- Choose a story idea which you think will engage your target audience’s concerns. This may seem difficult at first, so play around with a few ideas and try to unleash your unconscious mind. Try to link your ideas using a mind map. Test and expand them by adding interesting detail through some research. Consult dictionaries, an atlas, history books, documentaries, the Internet, videos, or conduct interviews or investigations. Let your ideas flow freely.
- Ask yourself what you want to achieve by writing this story. Which themes do you want to explore, e.g. guilt or grief? How will you help your audience enjoy and perhaps identify with it?