

A photograph of a polar bear and its cub resting on a large, white ice floe in the ocean. The bear is lying down, and the cub is sitting up next to it. The background shows a clear blue sky and the dark blue water of the sea.

I Have A Dream

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Antonomasia

“Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation” (King para 2).

“a great American” enhances the speech by giving a nickname that describes the person.

Sentence Structure

“In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.” to “When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.” (King para. 4).

Anaphora

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together" (King para 17-24).

Anaphora



“But **one hundred years later**, the Negro still is not free. **One hundred years later**, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. **One hundred years later**, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. **One hundred years later**, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition” (King para 3).

This quote enhances the speech because the repetitive phrase, “One hundred years later” makes you pay attention to what he has to say.

Simile

“...we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters...”(King Para. 13)

This enhances the speech by showing just how far he would be willing to go to have as much freedom as whites. It creates an image in your mind of how much freedom he wants to have.

Metaphor



“But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.”
(King Para. 4)

This enhances the text by creating an image to show that racism should be brought to justice and be ridded of.

Parallelism



“Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.”

(King Para. 38-40)

Irony

A photograph of a polar bear and its cub on a piece of ice. The bear is on the left, and the cub is on the right, both looking towards the right. The background is a vast, open expanse of water.

"This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned." (King Para. 4)

Rhetorical Question

“There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, ‘When will you be satisfied?’” (King para. 13).

This enhances the speech by making certain people look bad.

Analogy

A photograph of three men on a stage. The man on the left is wearing a blue baseball cap with a white 'LA' logo, a white shirt, a red tie, and a blue vest. He has his right hand raised. The man in the middle is wearing a dark blue baseball cap with a white 'LA' logo, a white sweater with a blue diamond pattern, and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing a green patterned baseball cap, sunglasses, a white shirt, a green tie, and a dark vest with a green skull design. He is holding a microphone to his mouth. The background is dark.

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." (King para. 18).

This enhances the speech by it helping to show what the speaker has as a goal and to compare how oppressed times used to be to how they can be. Comparing slavery to brotherhood.

Antithesis

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight” (King para 25).

This quote enhances the speech because it's comparing the rough times to mountains and valleys making them the

Understatement

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’” (King para. 17).

This enhances the effect of the speech by controlling the readers mood and helping

Punctuation

“There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, ‘When will you be satisfied?’ We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the

Signifying

“one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers” (King para 23).

This is in a way “trash talking” the way society is because he’s hoping that one

Hyperbole

“Who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the **palace of justice**” (King para 8)

By adding palace he is exaggerating peace and justice and how nice it will be.