

Karinn's 5.3 Tracing Understanding: Paragraphs

Paragraph 1

[1] My grandma had times where she remembered everything, and you could tell by the look on her face if she was in reality or not in reality in her brain. [2] My grnama was old and went through things like Lou does mentally. [3] Hers was more permanent, and called Alzheimers and I think Lou is just having moments where his thoughts are very distracting and making him forget stuff (like what he's doing, or where he is). [4] This reminds me of Lou in frame one, where you can see he is back in reality after having a flashback to a memory in his past. The author's trying to show problems that elderly people have. When people get old, things start to change, physically and mentally. These changes affect their relationships with people, because they can't communicate good anymore like my Grandma or no one will really pay attention to them like Lou. It's weird because children aren't mentally or physically all there and they get loads of help with everything mostly, and the elderly don't, and some need it just as much. The visual element effective to me, was the "slosh-slosh-slosh" noise because Lou can't hear it. No one else around to hear that funny noise and know that he might need help getting his feet dry. Lou was senile enough to unwittingly step into the river, where he could have drownd, but no one is there to look after him.

This is a large and awkwardly worded sentence that is run-on. Identify individual ideas (clauses) and delete the comma before "because". Consider re-wording it so it reads smoothly and clearly.

That you chose this is interesting, despite lots of bigger visual effects at play in these three frames. This is a good idea, Karinn, and emphasizes Lou's isolation.

In your paragraph, you write about your grandmother, then Lou and the similarities they share, as well as the issues that older people have. Your concluding sentence does not bring your conversation to a close effectively. Think of a way to sum up what you said that states the most important point you want your reader to realize at the end of your paragraph. Use this as a concluding sentence here.

Is Lou senile? Reconsider your word choice—you may need to look further into this.

Karinn, you have some good ideas here, I think, but it seems like they could be organized more effectively. I numbered your sentences so you can see what I mean. Sentence 2 would be a good way to start your paragraph because you are introducing your grandma and Lou and saying there is a connection. From that, you could use sentences 1 and 3 to elaborate further. Sentence 4 could still come last, but can you elaborate any further on this?

The elderly have already lived the parts of life that you and I currently are living—I do not think they want to be helped in all the same ways we help children. You may need to clarify this comparison.

This sentence reads awkwardly because it needs transition from your previous sentence.

Paragraph 2

You are missing a statement relating this graphic novel's theme to a theme you see in "Essex County".

*One graphic novel is called "Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Boy on Earth" by Chris Ware. It is about a boy abandoned by his father at a young age. The boy is strange and isolated from others and bad at living his life until he's an adult and his father wants to be around him **again**. Another book is "Y: The Last Man", by Brian Vaughan. All men on earth die except for one and only women are left. I think it fits the idea of loneliness and isolation, because the main character is the only man left! He might be lonely being the only dude, or **maybe he's isolated because he can't be around all those women all the time** (they probably love him!). Both of these seem interesting to read!*

Do you think so? You will have to read this to find out! I've read this series, and I have to say, it's awesome.