

Writing Style in "Paddy Clarke".

1. "Paddy Clarke" is a **first person narrative**- events seen through Paddy's eyes.
2. Narrative style reflects his childish mind Paddy jumps from subject to subject, often digressing in the middle of one topic to begin another subject that he thinks of before finally coming back to the first topic (eg, Paddy's description of Mister O'Connell, p.34-37).
3. Events are not told in a logical manner normally found in novels, which describe events in a chronological order (ie, order in which they happened): Paddy jumps backwards and forwards in time talking about things in a childish way- p.91, he tells of an event before his sister, who is present from the start of the book, was born.
4. The language is simple to reflect his youthfulness and is colloquial- it uses a lot of Irish dialect words- "gick" and "mickey" or "It was brilliant...one of the main fellas was killed" (p.72). The story is told in a conversational style, as if Paddy were telling it out loud.
5. The writing style is often used to catch the moods of Paddy- eg, very short sentences and part sentences are used to give a sense of excitement at times, as in the boys' race over their neighbours' hedges (p.83).
6. As Paddy grows during the novel, the writing style also develops to become more conventional and more "adult"- the number of digressions and rambling in storytelling become less, the sections become longer and more coherent in later pages. (Note- while a large part of the book is made up of short episodes of childish pranks, as Paddy's obsession with his parents' arguments grows and increasingly takes over his life, the stories of his parents' rows gradually dominate the narrative and become longer and longer).
7. Language is important in this novel. Irish writers have a tradition of being inventive and witty in their use of language and Paddy enjoys using interesting words, either swear words (eg, in the Zentoga ritual) or complicated words (eg, p.58 & 149). Paddy also likes telling and making up stories- eg, about his grandad being an Irish rebel (p.22).