

The Shipping News

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Narrative style | Third person, narrative distance Style of the opening reminiscent of the 19 th Century novel Perspective of characters – especially Quoyle and Agnis Tone of narration – direct, pragmatic, matter of fact, objective, precise |
| Characterisation | The Everyman archetype Contrasts and juxtaposition “Choice and circumstance” – unpack for each character Transformations Eccentricities |
| Language | Sentimentality and nostalgia Collapse of language – who can and can’t speak Newspaper headlines Imagery and descriptive language Dialogue Character voice Recording of oral literature |
| Symbolism Themes and motifs | Motifs: Knots and tying, water, navigation, resurrection, life/death, newspaper, sex, storytelling, place/setting Themes: (see list) |
| Structure | Ashley Book of Knots and chapter division Sentence structure: use of sentence fragments and clauses, sentences structured without verbs, dropping of articles Use of contrasts and juxtaposition |
| Setting | An important symbol in the text: represents safety and regression, it is confining and yet secure, hopeful, and a place of assurance for many. It is a developing place – it is part of a wider context What is the place renowned for? How is it changing and why? Weather and its volatility Social and cultural issues are contextual and grounded in the place which is represented by the novel |
| Imagery | Rich imagery, particularly of the landscape and water Metaphors of nature and essential elements Specific place detail Visions and epiphanies |
| Values and Ways of Thinking | Social, cultural, economic and philosophical paradigms Historical and social context – Newfoundland, 1990s Social and economic change – what persists and what has changed? Dialectical tension between the old and new, the traditional and “new ways” Storytelling, oral literature, lore and local valuing of tradition, traditional past-times, local ‘colour’ and mythology Importance of history Bonds of community – loyalty, look out for kin and kind |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| | <p>Self-sufficiency and subsistence living, sustainable agriculture (fishing industry), harmony with nature Conservation and preservation Values social principles over economic priority Values experience and wisdom over intellectualism Values skill, hard work and loyalty Marriage and family values – cohesion of the family unit, love and endurance Individualism – valuing the individual and personal Resilience of the local community and environment</p> |
| <p>Navigating the Global</p> | <p>Progression and regression simultaneously – Postmodern concept Literal and metaphorical navigation How and what does Proulx navigate and why? How do the characters navigate? Are there resolutions that come about from this? Who embraces? retreats? challenges? accepts? Do these happen simultaneously? How is the global context represented? Why?</p> |