

Dear Students,

In our second class session we reviewed terminology from the first meeting and information that was introduced in the previous summary. This included the basics of *Narrative Analysis*. We also discussed the importance of grounding current *Cultural Studies* theory in response to the deterministic approaches of Freud, Marx, and McLuhan. The focus of this summary will be to explore in greater detail the simple *Narrative Analysis* that we performed on the BookBox children's story. The original video is available through this link:
https://youtu.be/G1_Dm1ZjRAM

The Salt March

(In 1835 Provinces in India increasingly came under British Rule.)

(The British impose a tax on Indian salt along with a series of "salt laws.")

(Indians could not produce their own salt and it was too expensive for them to buy.)

*Gandhi found the salt tax and restrictions on production unfair and decided to protest. He said, "Next to air and water, salt is perhaps the greatest necessity of life."

*Gandhi organized a "Salt March" from the Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad to the seaside village of Dandi in the south of Gujarat. It started on the 12th of March, 1930 with Gandhi and 78 people.

(The "Salt March" took three weeks. Many people joined Gandhi along the way to protest the salt tax and British rule.)

*At the end of the March, Gandhi took up some grains of salt from the seashore and took a pledge: "With these crystals of salt, I am going to shake the foundation of the British Empire."

(With the Dandi March, Gandhi launched the civil disobedience movement against the British Empire.)

(Following the Salt March, 80,000 Indians, along with Gandhi, were jailed.)

*The British administration eventually relented and invited Gandhi to London to discuss reforms.

(Gandhi's Salt March got wide news coverage and proved to be a turning point in India's independence movement that led to independence in 1947.)

(With this simple act of standing up to injustice, Gandhi shook the foundation of the British Empire in India.)

Events

The events above are indicated with an asterisk. Even though they are situated in the past tense, they occur in a specific span of time and space, in a specific setting, with characters, objects, and actions. Components of the story that are enclosed in parentheses are background information because they lack these specific qualities.

Context

The story is presented in the style of a “third-person narrative,” and context is provided through background information. Alternatively, the story could have been contextualized by through Gandhi’s first-person perspective. Gandhi is clearly the protagonist and the story is contextualized based on what happens to him.

Interrelatedness

The story follows a strict chronology. In the most basic sense, the salt tax and salt production laws were the cause of Gandhi’s Salt March, and Gandhi’s Salt March was the cause of Indian liberation.

Climax

The forces underlying the tension in the narrative exist between Gandhi (and his desire for liberation) and the British Empire (and their oppressive taxes and laws). The point at which this tension is resolved is when Gandhi discusses reforms with British leaders in London.

Character Traits, Narrative Outcomes, Event Context

It is clear through the narrative that Gandhi possesses traits that include justice, courage, and pacifism. He demonstrates justice in recognizing the unfairness of the salt tax and other laws. He demonstrates courage in resisting the oppression of his people. He demonstrates pacifism because he resists oppression through nonviolent means.

In considering the narrative outcomes, it is clear that Gandhi is victorious in his pursuits. His actions lead to Indian independence in 1947.

The context of the story, which is established by the perspective through which it is presented, presents Gandhi as a heroic figure whose traits should be praised and emulated.