29.01.15

Correct test

Narrative strategy: is the alternation of showing and telling;
Stylistic choices: the grotesque, pathos, exaggerating.

1) The use of the grotesque in Oliver Wants Some More is responsible for the double-side effect it has on the reader. If on the one side the exaggeration of tones provokes immediate laughter on the other it elicits reflection on the poor conditions of children in workhouses. It can therefore be said that the novelist's aim was to convey an indirect criticism of the evils of Victorian society resorting to: exaggeration of tones, language discrepancy between situations referred to and the tools to communicate them.
Sometimes the effect is of caricatures and therefore it allows partial identification with the subject this efferent readers ad alibi to free their bad conscience.

2) Stylistic choices and narrative strategies all together contribute to the image of a repressive and claustrophobic education system. The third person intrusive narrator involving the reader does not leave him any space to gain a different perspective on British way of teaching at the time.
Stylistic choices are the conditions to obtain the effect: monotonous anaphoric repetition of the proper name, which creates also a phonological parallelism, exaggeration of tones, a rigid rhetorical communicative style together with verbs that all belong to the semantic field of maths and geometry, total neglect of emotional and involvement return to the reader an almost unbearable picture of a sadistic teacher who sounds afraid of loosing his patronizing position. In conclusion/in short he becomes aggressive as a way to consolidate his power and asymmetric position, totally devoid of any chance to make up relationships of any kind.

3) Victorian fiction (uncountable noun) may be said to be the product of middle class which is exalted and criticized at the same time. Class is the central theme of any novel, where a patronizing third person narrator filters all events only allowing the reader either to partial identify or totally reject the situation he is reading about. The publishing system itself contributed to the close relationship between novelists, publishing houses and readership since novels came out in monthly instormenst. After the nobelist could read about his readers reaction to want he had already written; novels provided both entertainment and reflection. All criticism was made from the inside because writers wanted to grant themselves economical survival. The setting is generally the factory or the town where arrogant self made men and weak women appear toy lived together in good terms. To tell the truth also the institution of the family provided an example of to repressive institution where women children and animals were treated all alike.

Class test correction

1)The grotesque is a narrative technique based on the distortion of the subject or the object described. The narrator creates through the exaggeration of tones and a discrepancy between the language used and the object he referes to. In Oliver Wants Some More the grotesque is used to provide a fist laughter but, an further reflection, it turns into a sense of "phatos". An example if offered by the description of bowls as large as spoons which produces a tragic and comic effect and at the same time makes the readers feel injustice through laughter.

2) In the Victorian age children's education was based on the analysis of facts and concrete reality, according to the materialistic philosophy of the time. In The Definition Of A Horse the teacher, the rigid and squared man, is described through funny and unnatural metaphors. The technique of the grotesque, together with caricature provide laugh in the readers. They both have the function to ridicule the teacher and his unusual method based on facts and measures, without considering children's emotions or feelings.

3) Victorian fiction represented social changes; to suit readers' taste the most recurrent themes were: class children exploitation, people's life conditions, the Industrial Revolution and, last but not least, middle-class daily life. Readers were first of all middle class people who found in Victorian narrative strategies (the grotesque of caricature) both an alibi for their actions and thoughts, and a potential identification with the subjects presented.