**Analysis of Techniques**

*Learning Intention:* Developing analysis skills (Performance Standards: **meaning** for audience – look for connotations and associations and context)

**Metaphor**: the negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in a vast ocean of prosperity

“Lonely island” suggests all African Americans feel isolated by segregation in the south, a physical isolation and by the values and ideas of the white people, their racism and attitude to black people, a mental isolation. The word “poverty” is official sounding making it appear to be the policy of the country. They are forced to be poor because the people with the power don’t care about them and there is very little they can do to change their situation. “Vast ocean” suggests white Americans surrounding them, crashing against them and eroding their mental resources. It also highlights the artificially created differences between black and white in American society – they are not even the same physical substance, black people being land and white being sea. Material prosperity that is shown to be the standard for white America is a second contrast made and this feature makes the black people even more segregated by economic factors as well as the restrictions on their rights.

**Summary**: The metaphor makes the audience empathetic towards the African Americans because it conjures a strong, conscience pricking mental image, highlighting the effect of literal segregation on the feeling of isolation they feel.

**Allusion**: free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we are free at last

Old song that audience knows and can relate to. It is last thing he said, so it would be stuck in their heads as a vision of the future and a take home they would act on. The song has a deeper meaning of freedom that appeals to the audience on level of brotherhood in adversity. It uses “we” to emphasise this. It showed his faith in his dream because it is something they have always dreamed of even in slavery. It used positive language like “will” to assure audience. The association with slave songs was of emancipation also linked to situational context at Lincoln’s memorial, who freed the slaves. It was Lincoln’s dream to free the slaves but the negroes are still enslaved in a way, by a corset of rules. But if it has happened before it can happen again.

**Summary**: The allusion helps the audience see that his view point is universal and supported by a respected president and gives the African Americans a vision of God supported hope.

**Metaphor**: Sweltering summer of the Negroes legitimate discontent; invigorating autumn of freedom.

Sweltering give the idea of hard work and no relief. Lack of energy as sapped by heat. Negroes have reason for discontent – justified as people (The Negroes). They had a right to be disgruntled. Contrast with autumn which is harvest and a more pleasant environment shows hope because they are working for something that will improve their situation and they will reap the rewards. Invigorating give the idea of their enthusiasm to work to something as lofty as freedom.

**Summary**: The metaphor gives the audience a universally relatable scenario and gives the audience of the time courage and hope that the adversity of their situation could be overcome and gruntlement could be achieved.