Prompt: How does Chief Seattle use literary elements and techniques to convey his concerns to the President?

Thesis: In a letter to the President written in 1852, Chief Seattle uses personification and emotion to illustrate the need to protect our natural world.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Claim and Evidence | Through cleaver use of personification, Chief Seattle pushes the President to take care of the environment, *“The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst.”* (Chief Seattle) | Further, Chief Seattle continues employing personification and strengthens his argument calling upon future generations, speaking again on rivers, “*They carry our canoes and feed our children.”* (Chief Seattle) | Also, using emotion, Chief Seattle makes a plea to the President, “*So you must give the rivers the kindness that you would give any brother.”* (Chief Seattle) |
| Explanation | This quote explains how important the rivers were to Chief Seattle’s people. It shows that rivers were used for for drinking water. It highlights the importance of keeping them clean and full. Considering just how polluted many of our waterways are today, the reader starts to feel a sense of guilt. Today, in Colorado, the Colorado River no longer reaches the Gulf of Mexico because of industrial farming. Pollution from pesticide and mining operations have recently made national news.  | Chief Seattle has moved beyond drinking water and emphasized how important the water ways are for travel and fishing. He also illustrates exactly who benefits – the children, or put another way, future generations. This sets up more visual evidence, and the personification works extremely well. | Chief Seattle asks the President to think of the waterways as people, and to take care of them. Sadly, the United States has many polluted rivers and many dry river beds. Agricultural run-off from pesticides makes water undrinkable. Acid rain from air pollution puts toxic chemicals into the food chain (fish/mercury). Dams dry up rivers and make them impossible to canoe or travel down. In a larger context, clean sources of fresh water will undoubtedly constitute the next great energy crises as populations around the world continue to grow, unless clean and plentiful sources become a priority. Clearly, we have not followed Chief Seattle’s advice. |

**Prompt:** How does Chief Seattle use literary elements and techniques to convey his concerns to the President? **NAME:**

**Thesis:** In a letter to the President written in 1852, Chief Seattle uses rhetorical questions and emotion to illustrate the need to protect our natural world.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Claim and Evidence | Through the clever use of rhetorical questions, Chief Seattle asks the President to take care of the environment, ***“*** | Further, Chief Seattle continues employing rhetorical question, raising the stakes by inquiring, “ | Also, using emotion and a vivid simile, Chief Seattle makes a plea to the President, *“We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat.”* (Chief Seattle)  |
| Explanation | This quote explains how important … | Chief Seattle now illustrates … | Chief Seattle asks the President to think of the land as a baby, and to take care of it. He … |