



Chiasmus

Chiasmus is a rhetorical device in which the grammar of one phrase is inverted in the phrase that follows, so two key concepts from the original phrase reappear in the second phrase in inverted order.

EXAMPLES:

Live simply so that others might simply live. (Gandhi).

Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate.
(John F. Kennedy)

The main aspects of chiasmus are:

- The concepts that are repeated can be synonymous or contrasting.
- Chiasmus always includes an inversion of words or concepts.
- The concepts in the two sides of a chiasmus are always related.

Read the assigned text. Identify the chiasmus. Write it on the lines below.

What is the effect of the chiasmus in the context of this text?
