

A Few Notes on Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake

1. Atwood's writing is sometimes **clipped and jerky**, moving from one topic to another without much notice. It is sort of ADD with a bunch of details mixed in with one another – especially in the BrainFrizz parts in the "present" that describe Snowman's thinking. The **style** it is written in mirrors the way that humans think in a non-linear way. Further, this style is meant to represent the way our brains are crammed with all sorts of bite-sized bits of data in the Information Age that keep pouring in.
2. Attention is paid to **commercials**, for obvious **thematic** reasons. Taglines for products are printed in the text right after their names. The idea is maybe that these phrases are like mind-viruses that get stuck in there.
3. The **structure** of the novel is a **double journey**: there is a journey into the past (**time**), and a journey to the paradise dome at the end of the novel (**space**). This structure is meant to show how the past and present are closely related, which is crucial to Atwood's whole purpose in writing the novel.
4. The **genre** of this novel is a **dystopia**, like Orwell's 1984. A dystopic novel takes current social, economic, and political trends and exaggerates them to show the dangers they might pose for our future. Atwood's **purpose** is to give a jolt to our **social** and **ethical** consciousness.