LITERARY TECHNIQUE: TIME-SLIP

Kate Constable uses a number of techniques to further her story.

The *time-slip technique* is used to make us aware of the past and its impact upon the present. Constable is able to show the past without writing a whole historical novel. The *time-slip technique* also allows the main character to develop her understanding of the world in which she lives, incorporating what has happened before and so develop and mature.

Where in the novel can I see this?
Read again the chapters which show a time-slip (chapters 7, 8, 12, 17, 18)

1. How does each time-slip occur?
2. How does Sadie know she has gone back to the 1930’s?
3. What does she do each time that shows that she is confused?
4. List the difference between her life in the 1930’s and her life today.
5. How does she help her father, Clarry, in the 930’s?
6. What does she think happened to her in the 1930’s?
7. What did happen to her?

The time-slip technique used in books can be awkward and clumsy but not so in Crow Country.

8. How has the author made us aware of a time-slip?
9. How has she made the time-slip believable?
10. Who does Sadie tell about this happening and why?
Have a go at explaining time slip technique...

a) Write a sentence explaining why an author might use the time-slip technique.
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b) Write a sentence on how the time-slip technique shapes the characters.
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c) Write a sentence or two explaining how Kate Constable has used time-slip in her novel. (use the previous two sentences but not add information about Crow Country.
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Check your understanding of the time-slip technique

1. Time-slip is a technique used to:
   a. Confuse readers
   b. Allows the author to show off
   c. Allow characters to understand the past
   d. Make time travel seem believable

2. What impact does this technique have on the characters?
   a. It makes them seem crazy
   b. Understand the past and use this to help understand the present/future
   c. They get stuck in a time that is not their own
   d. It makes it harder for the characters to seem real

3. Authors use this technique so that their characters:
   a. Are more impressive
   b. Are able to go on to develop super powers
   c. Are more likely to be adventurous and brave
   d. Are able to develop and mature

What do you think of this technique?
What does it enable the author to achieve?
Is the technique clever or confusing?
Is it effective in Crow Country? Why or why not? If not, what could the author do instead?