

Reading Critically

Collections 1: Use It Again "The Vege Car"

The text has a friendly conversational tone (uses an informal register): starts with a question; mentions a common experience that is likely to create a strong response (to the price of petrol).

The contractions support the conversational tone. There are many examples in the text.

"And yes" is conversational - as if the reader has asked a question.

Use of "even" for emphasis.

Use of informal form of address.

The family photo evokes a warm, positive response.

The choice of font and use of the shortened word "Vege" creates the informal friendly tone.

The Vege Car by Peter Stevens

Who hasn't grumbled every time they pull into a service station? The Macdonald family of Palmerston North isn't worried about the price of petrol. When their tank is empty, they just pour in vegetable oil - the kind that takeaway shops use for frying their chips.

And yes, the Macdonalds can even drive their car on vegetable oil after it's been used for cooking - thanks to Dad, James nui Macdonald.



Around three years ago, James nui decided it was time to build a car that didn't need petrol. It wasn't just to save money. James wanted to protest against the war in Iraq, which he believes is partly about powerful countries like the United States wanting oil from the Middle East. James nui, who is Ngā Puhi and Ngāti Whātua, also likes the fact that his car is in keeping with traditional Māori values. These place great importance on caring for the natural world - and driving a car that doesn't put harmful gases into the air is a great start. As James nui says, "Vegetable oil is 100 percent environmentally friendly - and it's recycled!"

Use of first name. (Usually a report about a person would refer to them by their last name, as in "Don't Miss It!")

Use of emotive language.

Inclusion of author's opinion.

The use of quotations adds to the conversational tone and creates a connection between James nui and the reader. It also gives an opportunity to present a point of view that supports that of the writer.

The man in the photo (James nui) is smiling at the reader, looking pleased and proud to be holding the jar of vege oil. A similar photo is on page 5.

Dashes are used to link ideas and support the conversational tone.

Use of exclamation mark for emphasis.