

RST Analyses from the RST web site (www.sfu.ca/rst)

The Thumbs Text

This text is distinctive in that it has a known, personal addressee. It is an excerpt from a handwritten personal letter from a friend. (The letter goes on to talk about relearning the typewriter.)

It is unusual in the way that it raises a small problem as a means of raising a moderate sized problem, leading to the entire excerpt as statement of a large problem. This strategy perhaps indicates something about the personal self representation intended by the writer.

The text was included in the published set as part of the effort to establish the breadth of coverage of RST.

The text:

- 1) Thumbs began to be troublesome about 4 months ago
- 2) and I made an appointment with the best hand surgeon in the Valley
- 3) to see if my working activities were the problem.
- 4) Using thumbs is not the problem
- 5) but heredity is
- 6) and the end result is no use of thumbs
- 7) if I don't do something now.

excerpt from a personal letter.

