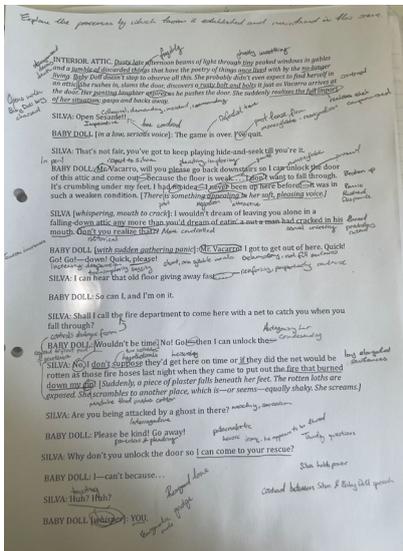


What role does imagination play in producing knowledge about the world?

Imagination is when an individual creates a mental image or visualises something that isn't currently present to them. An overarching idea is the fact that imagination is used as a tool for interpretation (a way of understanding what something means) and that it is needed for interpretation to occur, rather than thinking of imagination and interpretation as different things.



OBJECT 1: Annotated passage of the play "Baby Doll"

This object is an annotated passage of the play "Baby Doll" taken from my English Literature class at school. This object is used for practice for unseen passages.

This is a play, so it is meant to be performed on stage and received by an audience. However, I had received this information about the play's world as a reader and by reading this passage. For the play to be analysed, the reader would have to imagine how the passage would be delivered by actors on stage. If imagination wasn't used, the readers wouldn't be able to interpret this play properly since in prose, all the information meant to be shown would be available, while in a play, there is still room for interpretation by the actors. Here, imagination is used to fill the role of how the actors could interpret the play. Without

the aid of imagination, knowledge to do with the world of the play would not have been accessed.

This object is interesting since it demonstrates that since knowledge of a play can be presented in different ways, imagination has to be used to bridge the gap between the stage and an audience and a book and a reader to produce knowledge about the world of the play. From this object, we see that imagination is used to piece together information that the reader already has to create a narrative that makes sense.

toplayalong.com

Violin G. Tartini

Devil's Trill
I. Larghetto affettuoso

Larghetto

Sheet music from toplayalong.com © Copyright 2016

OBJECT 2: Tartini's Devil's Trill

This object is the sheet music to Tartini's Devil's Trill. Tartini claimed that the night before he wrote this piece, he dreamt of the devil playing him the most virtuosic violin piece he had ever heard. The next day when he woke up, he tried to write down what he heard, but he was unable to completely replicate it, leading to Tartini's Devil's Trill. This is used for musicians to play the piece.

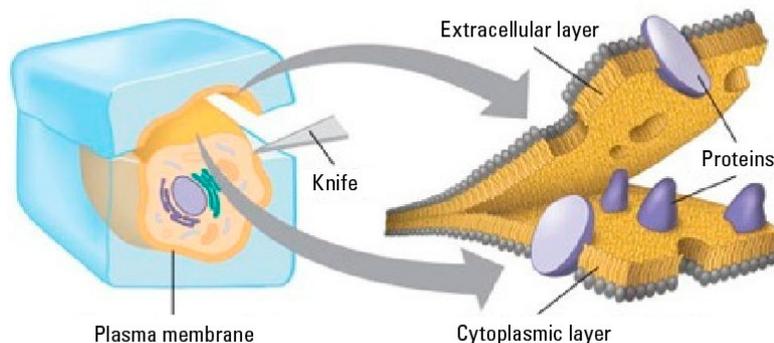
Tartini's imagination was used in his dream and when he tried to replicate it. A dream is a form of imagination as the mind is creating ideas and concepts without external stimuli. It was through Tartini's dream that the devil played the piece which led to the production of emotional knowledge- Tartini had a taste of flawless virtuosic playing and had gotten attached to the sound, inspiring him to recreate it. Secondly, in the morning, Tartini had to use his imagination to

recreate what he heard. His imagination here is used to produce knowledge about his dream world. Since the actual piece was played in his dream, he had to use imagination to visualise his dream world and what had occurred to attempt to recreate it. Here, his imagination of the dream world serves as a form of musical inspiration that caused Tartini to compose the Devil's Trill.

This object is interesting because scholars have said that it is likely for this piece to be composed in the 1740s rather than 1713 like Tartini claimed, due to Tartini's compositional timeline. This leads to questions about if Tartini's claims were true, was imagination used to obtain knowledge from his subconscious and allow him to create a piece that was more stylistically mature than his other pieces in the 1710s.

OBJECT 3: fluid mosaic model of a cell membrane

TECHNIQUE



This object is the fluid mosaic model of a cell membrane. This object was used to demonstrate how a cell membrane looks, including the fact that proteins were embedded and not another outer layer.

No one has been able to see a plasma membrane. However, models still have been created and this is because imagination is used. Without creating a mental image of something not present to them (the plasma membrane), this model would have never been created. These models allow the production of knowledge about plasma membrane structure which is fundamental to cells. Imagination is also used here in another way in understanding how the model interacts with biological processes, which is done through interpreting the model. By using the model, people are able to imagine and visualise processes that involve the cell membrane such as facilitated diffusion, which can now be visualised as through an integral protein in the bilayer, producing even more knowledge about cell biology.

This object is interesting because in biology or other sciences, people do not usually think imagination is needed as it is associated more closely with creative subjects. However, as seen from this object, imagination is also fundamental in creating this model and this can be more widely applied to other models in science where the actual object isn't visible to the human eye. This suggests that what we largely think of as factual knowledge initially stemmed from imagination that is backed up with evidence, and that imagination and scientific factual knowledge aren't completely separate, rather, they work together so that more factual knowledge can be produced. Here, pre-existing knowledge is used to inform imagination, which is then used to produce knowledge.

References:

Object 1: Photo from author's private collection

Object 2: Image sourced from <https://toplayalong.com/sheet-music/tartini-devils-trill-i-larghetto-affettuoso-violin/>, Tartini, G.T

Schwarm, B.S, (15 Jul 2014), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Devils-Trill>, accessed on (17 Jun 2022)

Object 3: Höflinger, G.H, (1/10/14), <https://www.leica-microsystems.com/science-lab/brief-introduction-to-freeze-fracture-and-etching/>, accessed on (24/6/22)

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