**STYLE**

Analysis of style is valuable only when the analysis is connected to the meaning of the work. The author’s diction and syntax is not accidental nor should elements of style be considered in isolation.

Broad questions to analyze style:

How does the content of the novel dictate the form of the work?

Terms to Know:

* **Diction:** it refers chiefly to the choice of words, theirarrangement, and the force, accuracy, and distinction with whichthey are used
* **Writer’s style:** is basically the way you write, as opposed to what you write about (though the two things are definitely linked). It results from things like word choice, tone, and syntax. It's the voice readers "hear" when they read your work.
* **Tone:** the speaker's or narrator's attitude towards the subject, rather than what the reader feels, as in mood. Mood is the general feeling or atmosphere that a piece of writing creates within the reader.

1. What is the **narrator’s attitude** toward the scene or event he is describing? How do you know? What reason can be seen for the narrator’s response or attitude? **(The narrator is not the author)**
2. Note any bitterness, sarcasm, or irony and explain how you know. What is the **tone** and what seems to be responsible for tone?
3. Examine the **diction** for any word choices made that particularly enhance the mood or reveal the narrator’s attitude.
4. Examine how **verbs** used in the passage connote activity or stasis. Is the passage in present, past, or future tense?
5. Examine **descriptive words** or phrases. Are they elaborate, complex, or simple and what is the effect or purpose?
6. What **figures of speech** are used? Simile? Metaphor? Personification? Allusion? Others? What is their significance? What is their relationship to the total passage?
7. What, if any, **sensory impressions** are evoked? How?
8. Identify and comment on any significant use of **contrast** or **comparison**.
9. Identify and comment on the use of **repetition** of words, phrases, images, or sentence structures.

**Note**: When writing or speaking about a prose passage, be very specific with references to the passage.