

Analyzing the Author's Craft/Style

Definition of Craft/Style: How the author describes his/her ideas, events, objects, etc. is critical for the craft of writing. To analyze a piece, one must notice the ways that the author uses words: i.e. word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, sentence arrangement, mood, imagery, etc. When analyzing craft/style, look at a piece of writing from the overall structure of the text to the small details and word choices.

Word Choice: Is the author's word choice formal, informal, or a combination?

Diction: Expansive (elaborate and long winded)? Economical (efficient/to the point)? Combination, why?

Vocabulary: Is the vocabulary simple, complex, or a combination?

Sound Devices: Is there a pattern to the language? Alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhythm, etc.?

Dialect: Is the writing written in dialect (from where?) or not?

Dialogue: Is there lots of dialogue or a little? None at all?

Sentence structure and focus: Are the sentences simple, compound, complex, or a combination? Does the author digress or go off on tangents, or tell the story in a focused way?

Paragraphing/Chapter Structure: Short? Long? Author uses of chapters, or not?

Figurative Language: Is there figurative language? Or not? If there is, what are the examples?

Imagery/Sensory Details: Does the writing contain sensory words or detailed imagery? Or not?

Format: Does anything stand out within the format (italics, bolding of words, abnormal use of punctuation)?

Plot: Is the plot organized chronologically? In flashback? A combination? Is it a mystery story that starts with a crime? Is it realistic or dreamlike?

Pace of the plot: Is the plot slow and suspenseful? Fast and action filled? Combination or medium?

Point of View: Is it told in first person? Third person? Limited or omniscient? Other?

Tone: What is the author's tone (attitude) towards the topic? Why?

Mood: What is the overall mood (emotional feeling) of the piece? Why?

Motif: What are the reoccurring motifs? Relationships? Nature? Psychology? Crime? Conflict? Survival? Choices? Something else?

Themes: What is the theme (motif and symbolism leading to a message) of the piece?

Genre: What is the genre of the piece? Why is this important? Is this an allusion or allegory?

Author's Purpose: What is the purpose of the piece? Why is it important?

Experimental elements: Does the author do something unique?