Style Analysis

Analyzing Style is part of understanding the writer’s craft. Writers of classics are pros—artists who invite us to wrestle alongside them with life’s largest issues. Teamwork—Author (coach) uses all elements (players) to score the goal (message/overarching theme)He chooses the best players—benching less skilled ones. Character, plot, setting, point of view, symbols, style all are working together to accomplish his goal.

Once you’ve identified elements of style, ask how the author uses them to convey character, conflict, setting, tone, and theme. DIDLS diction, images, details, language, sentence structure

Syntax--Length/complexity of sentences

How often does he use simple, complex, compound, or compound/complex? Declarative, interrogative, or exclamatory? Use of dashes?

Figurative language—similes, metaphors, symbols

Imagery—appeals to the senses

Sophistication, specialization, or other characteristics of diction (word choice)

Use LEAD for analysis of diction: Low or informal diction (dialect, slang, jargon), Elevated language or formal diction, Abstract (words that cannot be experienced through the senses) and concrete diction,

Denotation and connotation