

Explaining Rhetorical / Stylistic Devices

Toolkit # _____

Rhetorical / Stylistic Device	Explain the rhetorical / stylistic device by answering the questions next to it. Use the sentence frames to help you too.
<p>Personification giving human or living qualities to objects, animals or anything else not human or alive</p>	<p>What is being personified? What human or living qualities has this object, animal, idea, etc. been given? What specific words from the text are used? What connotations do these words have and how do they add to the tone? What NEW insights do you have that are not already stated in the text because of this stylistic device?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Author's name</u> is personifying _____. Describing (<i>name of object, animal, idea, etc. here</i>) as having qualities like _____, _____ and _____. • _____ make it appear as if _____ is <i>human / alive</i> because _____. • The word " _____ " brings to mind _____. The effect is that _____.
<p>Hyperbole a huge exaggeration</p>	<p>What is being exaggerated? What NEW insights do you have that are not already stated in the text because of this stylistic device?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here the <u>author / narrator</u> exaggerates _____. The purpose is to _____ (<i>be sarcastic or show an irony, emphasize a truth or reality, express the humor around a truly awful thing, point out an absurdity, create shock, to create humor, etc.</i>)
<p>Metaphor (a direct comparison between 2 very different things) & Simile (a comparison between 2 very different things using like or as)</p>	<p>What two things are being compared? What similarities do they share? What words does the author use to emphasize or show the comparison? What connotations do these words bring to mind? How does this comparison add to what is going on in the text or the tone? Do not restate what is occurring. What NEW insights can you infer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Author's name</u> compares _____ with _____. The author's use of the word " _____ " brings to mind _____.
<p>Symbol an object, animal, plant, setting, color, etc. that represents something else</p>	<p>What is the symbol and what does it represent? What similarities does the object, animal, place, etc. share with what it represents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ is a symbol for _____ because they both _____. • <u>Author's last name</u> uses the _____ to represent _____ because _____.
<p>Diction: Word Choice & Connotations ideas and images that come to mind that most people associate with a specific word</p>	<p>What people, places, events, objects, actions, etc. are associated with these words? How would the quotation be different if the author had chosen a similar but different word? (Example: "childish" instead of "childlike") How do specific words or a pattern of words contribute to the tone (the author or speaker's attitude about the subject being discussed?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author's use of the word " _____ " brings to mind _____. <u>Name of Author</u> uses this to show (<i>connect the connotations to the overall passage – not just the line it appears in</i>). • While similar to the word, _____, "<u>word from text</u>" has a very different effect because _____ • The word " _____ " stirs up emotions of ... because ... • The author's use of words like _____ and _____ suggest his/her tone is _____
<p>Imagery & Sensory Language</p>	<p>Do not say the author wants to create a picture or help us visualize what is going on. Instead describe the picture. Which words add to imagery and trigger our senses? What senses do they appeal to (sight, smell, sound, touch or taste)? What emotions do these images stir and why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a passage where (<i>explain the situation</i>), the author's uses words like " _____ " and " _____ " to describe _____. This helps readers to <u>smell/ visualize/ hear/ taste/ feel</u> _____ causing us to (<i>describe the emotions and reactions the author might be trying to create in the reader</i>).

<p>Contrasting Language & Ideas</p> <p>Opposites</p>	<p>Which words / phrases are opposites? How are their definitions and connotations different? Why would the author use these opposite words or ideas? Do not restate what is occurring. What NEW insights can you infer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The words “_____” and “_____” are opposites. The word “_____” means _____ and brings to mind _____. On the other hand, “_____” means _____, which reminds us of _____. The author uses these contrasting ideas to show that _____.
<p>Absolutes</p> <p>words like always, never, only, none, all, nothing, must, everyone, etc.</p>	<p>Which word is an absolute? What associations are connected to this word? What feelings do these associations create?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author uses absolutes such as “_____” in order to create a feeling of <u>(urgency, permanence, certainty, doubt, etc.)</u>
<p>Repetition of words, ideas or images</p>	<p>What word or phrase is repeated? Explain why this phrase is important, why should it be remembered, the consequences of not remembering this idea What NEW insight not already stated in the text can you add about why the author wants to emphasize this point?</p> <p>Do NOT say - The author repeats this phrase because it is important, wants to stress a point or wants us to remember this idea. There are lots of reasons people repeat things (ie. because they are trying to convince themselves of something, because they are nervously worried or paranoid and cannot let something go in, it’s an anxiety or concern, to reassure others, to express an act of determination, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ repeats the phrase “_____” to <u>(warn, encourage, convince, reassure, indicate concern or paranoia, express an act of determination, etc.)</u> <u>Name of author</u> repeats the phrase “_____” in order to create the feeling that _____ Words such as “_____” and “_____” appear more than once, suggesting that _____.
<p>Sentence Length & Sentence structure</p>	<p>What is significant about the sentence length? Is there a pattern of short sentences? Is the sentence a single word or an incomplete sentence? Is there a pattern of sentences all starting in a similar way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shortness of this sentence sounds <u>(severe, commanding, childlike, urgent, etc.)</u> because _____
<p>Punctuation</p> <p>Ellipsis . . . Exclamation points Dashes, etc. used not just to follow the rules of grammar.</p>	<p>The ellipsis indicates a trailing off or pause. What is the reason or cause for the speaker trailing off or pausing and what would have been said?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reason <u>Name of character trails off / pauses</u> is to indicate <u>(an unwillingness to reveal his/her thoughts, confusion, disapproval, hesitation, etc.)</u>. The cause for this is _____.
<p>Allusions</p> <p>An indirect reference in literature to a well-known person, place, event or another text</p>	<p>What person, event, or text is being alluded to? How do you know? Why does the author want his/her audience to associate this reference with what he/she is saying?</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Lincoln’s opening and closing of “The Gettysburg Address” refer to the birth of our nation and allude to “The Declaration of Independence.” The formal “four score and seven years ago,” when our country was “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” creates an eloquent and serious tone that honors the sacrifices that soldiers have made in the Civil War.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phrase “_____” is an allusion to <u>title of piece of well-known literature</u>. This allusion helps the reader see the similarity between _____ and _____, which helps to _____
<p>Rhetorical Questions</p> <p>Questions which are not meant to be responded to because the answer is implied (ex: Why don’t you turn off the tv and begin your homework?)</p>	<p>What answer is implied by asking this question? How do you know? What tone is the author using when asking this question? Why phrase the statement as a question?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that is implied here is _____. The tone the author is using when asking this question is _____. The reader can tell because _____.

