

Stylistic analysis

- **Setting**
- **Plot**
- **Theme**
- **Narration**
- **Characters**



Stylistic analysis

- 1. Summarize the plot (a one-sentence description)**
- 2. Identify the message**
- 3. Setting**
- 4. Type of narration**
- 5. Description of the author's style**
- 6. Description of characters through their language**
- 7. Stylistic devices and their functions in the text**

Setting

the time in which the action takes place



The geographical location, including

The specific characteristics of location - building, room, etc.



Setting

can help in the portrayal of characters.

“I write this sitting in the kitchen sink. That is, my feet are in it; the rest of me is on the draining-board.”

“I capture the Castle”

by Dodie Smith

Setting

can establish the atmosphere of a work.

**It was a dark and stormy
night...**



Plot

The series of events and actions that takes place in a story.

Climax

Beginning

End

Expositions

Resolution



Elements of Plot

Conflict

- **Man VS Man**
- **Man VS Nature**
- **Man VS Society**
- **Man VS Himself**

The Theme / Message

- is the central idea, the purpose of a work
- some insight into the human nature or society
 - the moral lesson (perhaps)
- stands clear only through the overall analysis

Narration

- **Author's narrative: omniscient (= all-knowing) point of view**
- **Entrusted narrative:**
 - a) the story is told from the point of view of one of the characters who uses the 1st person pronoun "I."
 - b) the story is told from the point of view of one of the characters who uses the 3d person.

Fiction Elements

- **Dialogue (speech characteristics)**
- **Interior monologue**
- **Stream-of-consciousness**
- **Author's remarks**

Fiction Elements: Structure

Foreshadowing: early clues about what will happen later in a piece of fiction

Chronological: starts at the beginning and moves through time.

Flashback: starts in the present and then goes back to the past.

Circular or Anticipatory: starts in the present, flashes back to the past, and returns to the present at the conclusion.

Panel: same story told from different viewpoints.

Style: Level of Complexity

- mostly simple sentence structure or varies the sentence structures (simple, compound, complex sentences);
- simple vocabulary or higher-level word choices
- dialogue
- figurative language (similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, personification, symbolism)
- level of detail (detailed or schematic)
- descriptive / too wordy / too flowery / too confusing or “convoluted”
- means to visualize the images, to understand the concepts, to build suspense

TONE

- is the author's attitude toward the subject.
- can be recognized by the language/word choices the author uses.

TONE

- Bitter
- Serious
- Witty
- Playful
- Tender
- Mysterious
- Suspenseful
- Nonchalant
- Angry
- Detached
- Poignant
- Compassionate
- Sympathetic
- Humorous

Tone : “A Gift in His Shoes”

Donovan and Larry were early for baseball practice. They decided to run up and down the bleachers to exercise before the rest of the team arrived. Larry was first to the top. He whispered to Donovan, “Look over there.” He pointed to a man sleeping on the highest, narrow bench of the bleachers. His pants and shirt were faded, worn, and too large for his thin frame. One big toe stuck out of a huge hole in his sock. His scraped-up shoes sat a few feet away. Donovan whispered, “We should help him out. Let’s hide something good in his shoes. Then, when he wakes up, he will have a nice surprise.”

Tone: “A Gift in His Shoes”

How would you describe the tone of this passage?

- a. Angry
- b. Detached
- c. Sympathetic

Evidence: *help him out, something good, a nice surprise*

MOOD

MOOD is the overall feelings or emotions that are created IN THE READER.

Authors “move” their readers’ moods through their choice of words and level of detail.

MOOD

- Cheerful
- Relieved
- Gloomy
- Bleak
- Uncertain
- Bittersweet
- Relaxed
- Confused
- Hopeless
- Tense

MOOD EXAMPLE

During the holidays, my mother's house glittered with decorations and hummed with preparations. We ate cookies and drank cider while we helped her wrap bright packages and trim the tree. We felt warm and excited, listening to Christmas carols and even singing along sometimes. We would tease each other about our terrible voices and then sing even louder.

Mood: content, happy ("warm, excited, glittered")

MOOD EXAMPLE

After New Year's the time came to put all the decorations away and settle in for the long, cold winter. The house seemed to sigh as we boxed up its finery. The tree was dry and brittle, and now waited forlornly by the side of the road to be picked up.

Mood: dreary, depressed. ("cold, sigh, brittle, forlornly")

Types of Characters

- **Round Character:** convincing, true to life and have many character traits.
- **Dynamic Character:** undergoes some type of change in story because of something that happens to them.
- **Flat Character:** stereotyped, shallow, often symbolic. They have one or two personality traits.
- **Static Character:** does not change in the course of the story

Characters

- Protagonist -the main character in a literary work (usually positive).
- Antagonist - the character who opposes the protagonist.

Methods of Characterization

- direct- “he was an old man...”
- characters’ thoughts, words, and actions
- reactions/comments of other characters
- character’s physical appearance
- characters’ thoughts

Symbolism

A symbol represents an idea, quality, or concept larger than itself.

**A Journey
can symbolize
life.**



**Water may represent
a new beginning.**



**Black can
represent evil or
death.**



Plot Line

Climax: The turning point. The most intense moment (either mentally or in action).

Rising Action: the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax.

Falling Action: all of the action which follows the Climax.

Exposition: The start of the story. The way things are before the action starts.

Resolution: The conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads.