Prose

What You Should Already Know

Written in Paragraphs

Types of Prose

▷ **Nonfiction** (based on fact rather than on the imagination, although may can contain fictional elements) -essay, biography, letter, diary, journal, account, autobiography, argument, complaint, etc.

▷ **Fiction** (created from the imagination, not presented as fact, although it may be a true story or situation) -short story, novella, novel, fable, fairy tale, myth, etc.

Close Reading of Prose

- Deciphering Prose

- SOAPSTone (subject, occasion, audience, purpose, speaker, tone)

- Prose Chart

- Data Sheet

Prose: Elements of Language/ Rhetorical Devices

▷ **Repetition:** alliteration, anadiplosis, anaphora, antimetabole, assonance, catalog, chiasmus, epanalepsis, epistrophe, internal rhyme, parallelism, sibilance

Prose: Elements of Language/ Rhetorical Devices

▷ **Rhetorical/Organizational/Reasoning:** ambiguity, analogy, anecdote, aphorism, aposiopesis, catalog, didactic, digression, epithet, ethos, pathos, logos, hendiadys, juxtaposition, understatement/litotes, oxymoron, paradox, parallelism, rhetorical question, shift, syllogism, zeugma, organizational pattern (chronological, spatial, climactic, cause/effect, comparison/ contrast, deductive/inductive reasoning, classification, problem-solution)

Prose: Elements of Diction

▷ **Levels of Diction**

▷ **high/formal**-contains language that creates an elevated tone. It is free of slang, idioms, colloquialisms, and contractions. It often contains polysyllabic words, sophisticated syntax and elegant words.

▷ **neutral**- uses standard language and vocabulary without elaborate words and may include contractions

▷ **informal/low**- language of everyday use; relaxed and conversational; common and simple words, idioms, slang, jargon and contractions

Prose: Elements of Diction

Types of Diction

▷ **slang**-recently coined words that come and go quickly; used in informal situations

▷ **colloquial**- nonstandard expressions, often regional, used in informal or conversational speech and writing

▷ **jargon**-words characteristic to a particular profession

▷ **dialect**- nonstandard subgroup of language with its own vocabulary and grammatics; can reveal region, economics, class; words are misspelled to accentuate the way the words sound

▷ **abstract**- denotes intangible ideas, emotions, conditions, or concepts

▷ **concrete**- specific words that describe physical qualities/conditions

▷ **denotation**

▷ **connotation**

Prose: Elements of Syntax

Types and Patterns of Sentences

- **telegraphic**-shorter than five words

- **short**-approximately five words in length

- **medium-**approximately 18 words in length

- **long and involved**-30 words or more in length

Prose: Elements of Syntax

▷ Types and Patterns of Sentences

▷ **declarative**-makes a statement

▷ **imperative**-gives a command

▷ **interrogative-**asks a question

▷ **exclamatory**-emphasizes or expresses strong emotion

Prose: Elements of Syntax

▷ Types and Patterns of Sentences

▷ **simple**-one independent clause

▷ **compound**-two independent clauses

▷ **complex-**one independent clause and at least one dependent clause

▷ **compound-complex**-two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause

Prose: Elements of Syntax

Types and Patterns of Sentences

▷ **loose or cumulative**-makes sense if brought to a close before the actual ending

▷ **periodic**-makes sense fully only when the end of the sentence is reached (usually very long with much punctuation)

▷ **balanced**-phrases and clauses balance each other by likeness, structure, meaning or length

▷ **asyndeton**-deliberate omission of conjunctions in a series of related clauses

▷ **polysyndeton**-deliberate use of many conjunctions for emphasis

Prose: Elements of Syntax

▷ Types and Patterns of Sentences

▷ **natural order**-subject comes before the predicate

▷ **inverted order**-predicate comes before the subject

▷ **rhetorical fragment**-fragment used deliberately for purpose/effect

▷ **rhetorical question**-not meant to be answered

Prose: Elements of Syntax

▷ **Syntactical Devices**-parallelism, juxtaposition, repetition, anaphora, chiasmus, antimetabole, zeugma

Prose: Elements of Structure/ Storytelling Techniques

▷ **Elements of Plot:** the series of related events in a story; it must involve conflict and resolution of conflict; must figure out protagonist, antagonist, type of conflict, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement, turning point

Prose: Elements of Structure/ Storytelling Techniques

▷ **Point of View:** vantage point from which a story is told; can be participant or nonparticipant; can change throughout story

▷ *Participant Points of View:* first-person; innocent eye

▷ *Nonparticipant Points of View:* third-person; third-person omniscient, third-person limited omniscient, third-person objective, second-person

Prose: Elements of Structure/ Storytelling Techniques

▷ **Structural Elements for Storytelling:** flashback, foreshadowing, framing device, shift, chapters, books, paragraphs, paragraph supports (quotations, citations, details, diction, etc.), motif, parody

Prose: Elements of Characterization

▷ **Characterization:** the process by which the writer reveals the personality of the character

▷ *indirect characterization*-what the character says, does, thinks, has, wears; where they are; the people with whom they associate; what others say and think about them

▷ *direct characterization*-author's direct statements

Prose: Elements of Characterization

▷ **Types of Character:** narrator, flat, round, static, dynamic, major, minor, protagonist, antagonist, archetypal

Prose: Elements of Setting

▷ **Setting:** the historical time and place, and the social circumstances in the "world" of the literature; rarely isolated; can affect structure, symbol, irony, tone, mood, archetype and character

▷ *geographic location*-topography, scenery, room layout/furniture, buildings, stage set or design; physical dimensions

▷ *cultural backdrop/social context/time period*-occupations/working conditions, way of life, way of talking and behaving, clothing, gender roles, traditions, habits, attitudes, customs, beliefs, values, speech patterns, laws, past present and future

▷ *artificial environment*-rooms, buildings, cities, towns, villages, futuristic settings

▷ *props*-tools, implements, gadgets, clothing/costumes, furniture

Prose: Elements of Style

▷ **Style:** the characteristic manner of expression of a writer or text. INCLUDES diction, syntax, figurative language, imagery, tone, details, parallelism, rhetorical devices, etc.

▷ **How to Ascertain Style**: First look at syntax and diction, then pay attention to patterns in all other elements

Prose: Elements of Theme

▷ **Theme:** the insight about human life revealed in literature; not one or two words. The theme is not "love" it is "humans go to great lengths to be loved."

▷ **How to Ascertain Theme**: First know plot with conflict, characterization, imagery, and author's tone; then identify the subject in one word and explain in one or two sentences what the author says about the subject.

Prose: Elements of Tone

▷ **Tone:** the author's (sometimes the speaker's) attitude

▷ **How to Ascertain Tone:** DIDS (*d*iction-LEAD), *i*magery (appeals to understanding through senses), *d*etails (facts included and omitted), *s*yntax (how does sentence structure affect mood?)

Prose: Elements of Tone

▷ **Types of Tone:** you must develop a tone vocabulary--continue making tone groupings. Here are some areas to focus on: happy, thinking, mocking, caring, sad, ironic, objective, angry, conversational, don't care, etc.

Prose: Figurative Language

▷ adynaton, allegory, apostrophe, cliche, conceit, euphemism, hyperbole, idiom, imagery, synesthesia, metaphor, metonymy, personification, pun, simile, synecdoche

Prose: General Literary Devices

▷ aesthetics, allusion, archetype, dramatic situation, irony, mood, motivation, satire, style, symbol, theme, tone, sarcasm