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
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)
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
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**
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
Types and Patterns of Sentences

- **declarative** - makes a statement
- **imperative** - gives a command
- **interrogative** - asks a question
- **exclamatory** - emphasizes or expresses strong emotion
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
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
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
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
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
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.
**Tone:** the author’s (sometimes the speaker’s) attitude

**How to Ascertain Tone:** DIDS (*dictionary*- *LEAD*), imagery (appeals to understanding through senses), details (facts included and omitted), syntax (how does sentence structure affect mood?)
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
aesthetics, allusion, archetype, dramatic situation, irony, mood, motivation, satire, style, symbol, theme, tone, sarcasm