

### Analogy

- ❖ Comparison of items to compare the known to the unknown.
- Compares two things, which are alike in several respects, for the purpose of explaining or clarifying some unfamiliar or difficult idea or object by showing how the idea or object is similar to another.
- ❑ Hat is to head as a monitor is to a computer.
- ❑ Cats are to mice as dogs are to cats.

### Anecdote

- ❖ A brief narrative or story often serving to make a point, describing an interesting/amusing event.
- May be accumulated to substantiate a case or suggest a conclusion.
- May be amusing or entertaining within itself.
- May be fictional, or non-fictional.
- Are often expressed orally, but good anecdotes find their way into print.
- For example: Recall the anecdote of George Washington, that he could not tell a lie when he cut down the cherry tree.

### Anticlimactic Structure

- ❖ ANTICLIMAX (also called bathos): a drop, often sudden and unexpected, from a dignified or important idea or situation to one that is trivial or humorous.
- Also a sudden descent from something sublime to something ridiculous.
- In fiction and drama, this refers to action that is disappointing in contrast to the previous moment of intense interest. In rhetoric, the effect, the effect is frequently intentional and comic.
- ❑ "Osama Bin Laden: Wanted for Crimes of War, Terrorism, Murder, Conspiracy, and Nefarious Parking Practices."
- ❑ He scaled the side of a mountain, raced a school of piranhas, lost the feeling of his arms to frost bite, and hearty met death face to face all to experience the perfect piece of cake.

### Complex Sentence Structure

- ❑ Sentence that contains one main or independent clause and one or more subordinate clause(s) or dependent clause(s).
- ❑ A dependent clause is preceded by subordinators such as *because, since, although, after, when, or* a relative pronoun such as *who, which, or that*.
- ❑ When the sun is down, the birds go to sleep.
- ❑ The universe is still after the wolves howl.

### Compound Sentence Structure

- ❖ A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinator. The coordinators are as follows: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*.
- ❖ Mary and Samantha left on the bus before I arrived, so I did not see them at the bus station.

- ❖ "I was no good at drawing, so I used words instead." -E.B. White

### Complex-Compound Sentence Structure

- ❖ Has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses.
- ❑ Although I enjoy swimming, I haven't had time to go lately, and I have not found a public pool to use.
- ❑ Even though I can't ride a bike, I am learning how to maintain balance. I have ridden for a short distance without assistance.

### Diction

- ❖ Word choice, particularly as an element of style.
- Different types and arrangements of words have significant effects on meaning. An essay written in academic diction, for example, would be much less colorful, but perhaps more precise, than street slang.

### Examples:

- ❑ "T' maister nobbut just buried and Sabbath nut oe'ted..." (Wuthering Heights)
- ❑ "So it goes" or "And so on" in *Slaughterhouse Five*.

### Digression

- ❖ Tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects.
- The bill you have signed is wrong. Even if you despise Fidel and even if the Cubans should not have shot down the planes violating their air space. (Did you, by the way, see Oliver Stone's "Earth and Sky," about the U.S. bombing and general destruction of Vietnam over years and years? There was a major case of violating airspace!) - Letter from Alice Walker to President Clinton

### Didactic

Writing whose purpose is to instruct or to teach. A didactic work is usually formal and focuses on moral or ethical concerns. Didactic writing may be fiction that teaches a specific lesson or moral or provides a model of correct behavior or thinking. Sometimes it seems to blatantly convince a reader of a specific point

Any piece that is written with the purpose for you to learn something is didactic...  
Amazing Grace

### Epistolary Novel

- ❖ A novel that is composed of letters between characters of the story.
- Sometimes an "editor" is used to narrate story of how he found letters and inserts bits of information throughout novel.
- Written in the form of or carried on by letters or correspondence; "an endless sequence of epistolary love affairs".
- ❑ The novel *Last Days of Summer* by Steve Kluger containing a series of letters during the 1940s between a twelve year old and a rookie baseball player is an example of an epistolary novel.

Epithet

- ❖ A term used as a descriptive and qualifying substitute for the name of a person, place or thing OR
  - ❖ An adjective which expresses a quality or attribute/considered characteristic of a person or thing.
  - It is also an appellation or descriptive term which is common in historical titles such as "Catherine the Great"
  - ❑ "laughing happiness," "sneering contempt," "untroubled sleep," "peaceful dawn," "life giving water," "tearful goodbye," and "stone-cold heart."
- Epithet
- ❖ Substitutes for a particular attribute the name of a famous person recognized for that attribute.
  - By their nature eponyms often border on the cliché, but many times they can be useful without seeming too obviously trite.
  - Finding new or infrequently used ones is best, though hard, because the name-and-attribute relationship needs to be well established.
  - Robert Atkins was a nutritionist and the Atkins diet was named after him
  - Adam's Apple comes from Adam.

Hypotaxi

- ❖ Using subordination to show the relationship between clauses or phrases (and hence the opposite of parataxis).
- Synactical arrangement of similar but unequal words or phrases.
- ❑ Example: "expensive stolen goods"
- ❖ "-stolen' modifies 'goods'
- ❖ "-expensive' modifies 'stolen goods'.

Inductive Reasoning

- ❖ Like generalization: reasoning from detailed facts to general principles
  - The process of deriving general principles from particular facts or instances.
  - The process that detectives use in solving crimes.
  - Taking a fact or set of facts and drawing a conclusion; however the conclusion may or may not be accurate.
  - The facts can draw you to that conclusion but it does necessarily ensure its accuracy.
  - Very similar to deductive reasoning
  - \*How does this differ from deductive reasoning?\*
  - ❑ There is more assumption involved.
  - ❑ The person looks uncomfortable
- Therefore, the person is uncomfortable.

Inference

- ❖ The act of reasoning from factual knowledge or evidence.

- The reasoning involved in drawing a conclusion or making a logical judgment on the basis of circumstantial evidence and prior conclusions rather than on the basis of direct observation.
- Tom saw Jack and Bill whispering together when he came back leading him to believe that Jack had turned against him.

Internal Monologue

- ❖ A composition, written or oral, by a single individual.
- More specifically, a speech given by a single individual in a drama or other public entertainment
- It has no set length, although it is usually several or more lines long

- ❑ An example is Macbeth's questioning of his own sanity in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*:

Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee!  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
Act II, scene i, lines 42-48

Meiosis

- ❖ Understatement, the opposite of exaggeration.
- Litotes (especially popular in Old English poetry) is a type of meiosis in which the writer uses a statement in the negative to create the effect.
- ❑ "I was somewhat worried when the psychopath ran toward me with a chainsaw." (i.e. I was terrified)
- ❑ "You know, Einstein is not a bad mathematician." (i.e. Einstein is a good mathematician.)

Motif

- ❖ Recurring character, incident, or concept in literature Motifs contribute to the conflict in a piece of writing.
- ❑ Hope vs. despair, conformity vs. individuality, etc.
- ❑ In The Allegory of the Cave the motif is illusion vs. enlightenment.

Motif vs. Theme:

- Theme is the idea set forth by the text.
- Motif is a recurring element that symbolizes that idea/theme. It is the central idea behind a theme.

### Objectivity:

- ❖ Judgment based on observable phenomena and uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices.
- Remaining un-emotionally involved.

### Pedantic

- ❖ *An adjective that describes words, phrases, or general tone that is overly scholarly, academic, or bookish.*
  - *Language that might be described as "show-offy"*
  - *Using big words for the sake of just using big words.*
  - *When something is described over-extensively and unnecessarily.*
  - ❑ *I am indubitably sure that you are ludicrously erroneous in your accusations towards my colleague.*
- This could be said as: I am without a doubt sure you are wrong in your accusations towards my friend.*

### Periodic Sentence

- ❖ A sentence where the main clause doesn't appear until the end of the sentence.

### Stream of Consciousness

- ❖ The continuous flow of ideas and feelings that constitute an individual's conscious experience.
- ❖ "I walked into the room and saw what I had never seen before. My face twitched and my body froze."
- ❖ I think about truth, and what it is or if it's real. I don't really know what anything is, is anything real? I surely don't know.

### Subjectivity

- "The quality originating and existing in the mind of a perceiving subject and not necessarily corresponding to any object outside that mind." (HF) In literary critical usage, texts which explore the nature of such a perceiving subject are said to be interested in subjectivity.
- Subjectivity a personal presentation of events and characters, influenced by the author's feelings and opinions •
- A persuasive essay is subjective because the writer is trying to influence the reader into believing what they believe.
- Kozol's *Amazing Grace* as a whole novel is subjective because he is trying to convince his reader of his personal opinion.