**Style Analysis**

Part of analyzing literature requires you to analyze the style of the author. In order to be successful at style analysis, you must first understand the different techniques that authors use to write. By analyzing style you will become a stronger creative writer.

We will be looking at some of the following:

-diction -figures of speech

-detail -complex relationships (how things change)

-imagery -characterization

-syntax -satire/comedic effect

-tone -structure (how things are organized)

-point of view

**Diction**

-Diction = *word choice*

-a study of diction is the analysis of how a writer *uses language for a distinct purpose* and effect, including *word choices* and *figures of speech*

**Levels of Diction**

*Informal Diction*: personal writing

*Formal Diction*: academic or literary writing

**Types of Diction**

*Colloquial words* – conversational language – consider, is there dialect?

*Slang*—highly informal language

*Jargon* – the special language of a profession or group (ex. Lawyer talk, technical talk)

**Ways to Characterize Diction**

*General* – look, walk, sit, cry, throw, dog, boy

*Specific* – gaze, stride, slump, weep, hurl, black Labrador retriever, tall boy

*Monosyllabic words* – single syllable words

*Polysyllabic words* – more than one syllable in the word

\*The greater the number of polysyllabic words, the more complex the passage

*Denotative words* – dictionary meaning (wedding dress, law officer, public servant)

*Connotative words* – emotional meaning (wedding gown, cop, bureaucrat)

*Cacophonous words* – harsh sounding words (maggot) (\*also known as cacophony)

*Euphonious words* – pleasant sounding words (butterfly)(\*also known as euphony)

*Abstract words* – not material; representing a thought (pleasant tasting)

*Concrete words* – real or actual; specific, not general (sour tasting)

**A Helpful Acronym -- LEAD**

**L**ow or informal diction (dialect, slang, jargon)

**E**levated language or formal diction

**A**bstract and concrete diction

**D**enotation and connotation

\*Also look for *figures of speech* (simile, metaphor, personification, etc.)