

Creative Writing 10 – Novel Close Reading

Part of the work you do for this term is reading a chosen novel closely for narrative and stylistic elements. This close reading will be chopped up and submitted in FIVE SUBMISSIONS – one at a time - all on one continuous Google Doc. Here is what to look for:

- **Elements of a story.** How are parts of a story like plot, character, setting, conflict, theme (and so many more!) evident in the novel you have chosen? Use your literature term document as a guide. Isolate a narrative element, copy out a passage that you feel represents that element, and explain to me why the passage is a suitable representation.
- **Elements of style.** How is the author using language in a way that you find interesting, in a way that you might use in your own writing?
 - o Part A: What new (to you) vocabulary is being used? Copy the sentence it is in (in the book), define it, then write an original sentence with it.
 - o Part B: What interesting figurative expressions are being used? Copy the sentence it is in and explain why you like it.
 - o Part C: What interesting sentence constructions are being used? Copy the sentence and write an original sentence that utilizes the same structure.

The task is simple: Record the evidence; explain how the evidence is significant, and/ or give me an example of how you could use the evidence in your own work. Look at my exemplars from “Harrison Bergeron”:

Example	Amount
<p>Elements of a story</p> <p><i>“The year was 2081, and everybody was finally equal. They weren't only equal before God and the law. They were equal every which way. Nobody was smarter than anybody else. All this equality was due to the 211th, 212th, and 213th Amendments to the Constitution, and to the unceasing vigilance of the agent of the United States Handicapper General.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From this passage, I can understand elements of the physical and emotional setting. The details of the physical setting suggest that this story takes place in the future (time) and in the United States (place). It seems that this equality that Vonnegut is talking about is being enforced thoroughly and strictly, so I might think that the emotional setting could be oppressive, or maybe cruel. 	<p>Required number of entries like this per submission =</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>

<p>Elements of Style: Vocabulary</p> <p>“Screams and barking cries of consternation came from the television set.” (Pg. 179)</p> <p>Consternation: feelings of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected.</p> <p>Sample: Pike’s announcement that there would be pop quiz today filled me with so much consternation that I threw up on my desk.</p>	<p>Required number of entries like this per submission =</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Elements of Style: Figurative expression</p> <p>“The rest of Harrison’s appearance was Halloween and hardware.” (Pg. 178)</p> <p>Explanation: Vonnegut is using metaphors here to help describe Harrison as being freakish, scary, or maybe even silly. I love his choice of metaphors because they suggest so much about Harrison’s possible appearance without explicitly explaining. I get the chance to think of all the possibilities without being told what the right answer is.</p>	<p>Required number of entries like this per submission =</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Elements of Style: Sentence Construction</p> <p>“They reeled, whirled, swivelled, flounced, capered, gambolled, and spun. They leaped like deer on the moon.” (Pg. 180)</p> <p><i>Pike’s son moaned, wailed, complained, whined, griped, and grumbled at the suggestion he take a shower. He lowed like a cow needing to be milked.</i></p>	<p>Required number of entries like this per submission =</p> <p>3</p>

Submission Schedule = Once per week, according to the reading schedule.