

Elements of Style Class Notes

Style—the distinctive way in which a writer uses language, from how he/she puts sentences together to his/her choice of vocabulary and use of literary devices.

Metaphor—a comparison between two things that are basically dissimilar in which one thing becomes another.

Example: “But my mother’s hair...*is* the warm smell of bread before you bake it.”

Simile—a comparison between two things that are basically dissimilar using “like” or “as” to make the comparison.

Example: “My papa’s hair is *like* a broom.”

Personification—the act of giving human qualities to something that is not human.

Example: “And me, my hair is lazy.”

Alliteration—the repetition of similar consonant sounds within a phrase or sentence.

Example: “It is the **s**mell when **s**he makes room for you on her **s**ide of the bed **s**till warm with her **s**kin.”

Repetition—the act of repeating words or phrases for dramatic effect

Example: In “Hairs,” the words “hair,” “holding you,” and “rain” are repeated.

Sensory details—images and/or details that emphasize our senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to recreate a scene for the reader

Example: “The snoring, the rain, and Mama’s hair that smells like bread.”