Explaining Stylistic Devices   Toolkit #_____

Personification giving human or living qualities to objects, animals or anything else not human or alive	What is being personified? What human or living qualities has this object, animal, idea, etc. been given? What specific words from the text are used? What connotations do these words have and how do they add to the tone? What NEW insights do you have that are **not** already stated in the text because of this stylistic device? • Author's name is personifying _____. Describing (*name of object, animal, idea, etc. here*)_____ as having qualities like _____, _____ and _____ make it appear as if _____ is human / alive because … • The word "_____" brings to mind _____ The effect is that _____
Hyperbole a huge exaggeration	What is being exaggerated? What NEW insights do you have that are **not** already stated in the text because of this stylistic device? • Here the author / narrator exaggerates _____. The purpose is to … (be sarcastic or show an irony, emphasize a truth or reality, express the humor around a truly awful thing, point out an absurdity, create shock, to create humor, etc.)
Similes & metaphors	What two things are being compared? What similarities do they share? What words does the author use to emphasize or show the comparison? What connotations do these words bring to mind? How does this comparison add to what is going on in the text or the tone? Do not restate what is occurring. What NEW insights can you infer? • Author's name compares _____ with _____. The author's use of the word "_____" brings to mind …
Symbol an object, animal, plant, setting, color, etc. that represents something else	What is the symbol and what does it represent? What similarities does the object, animal, place, etc. share with what it represents? • _____is a symbol for _____ because they both _____. • Author's last name uses the _____ to represent _____ because _____.
Diction: Word Choice & Connotations ideas and images that come to mind that most people associate with a specific word	What people, places, events, objects, actions, etc. are associated with these words? How would the quotation be different if the author had chosen a similar but different word? (Example: "childish" instead of "childlike") How do specific words or a pattern of words contribute to the **tone** (the author or speaker's attitude about the subject being discussed?) • The author's use of the word " _____" brings to mind _____. *Name of Author* uses this to show <mark>(connect the connotations to the overall **scene** – not just what is being said).</mark> • While similar to the word, _____, "word from text" has a very different effect because ... • The word "_____" stirs up emotions of … because … • The author's use of words like _____ and _____suggest his/her tone is _____
Imagery & Sensory Language	Do not say the author wants to create a picture or help us visualize what is going on. Instead describe the picture. Which words add to imagery and sensory language – what senses do they appeal to? What emotions do these images stir? • In a scene where (explain what is happening), the author's uses words like "_____" and "_____" to describe _____. This helps readers smell/ visualize/ hear/ taste/ feel_____ causing us to feel . . . (describe the emotions and reactions the author might be trying to create in the reader).

Contrasting Language & Ideas **Opposites**	Which words / phrases are opposites? How are their definitions and connotations different? Why would the author use these opposite words or ideas? Do not restate what is occurring. What NEW insights can you infer? • The word "_____" means _____ and we associate this word with _____. On the other hand, "_____" means _____, which reminds us of _____. The use of these contrasting words shows that….
Absolutes words like always, never, only, none, all, nothing, must, everyone, etc.	Which word is an absolute? What associations are connected to this word? What feelings do these associations create? • The author uses absolutes such as "_____" in order to create a feeling of_____ (urgency, permanence, certainty, doubt, etc.)
Repetition of words, ideas or images	What word or phrase is repeated? Explain why this phrase is important, why should it be remembered, the consequences of not remembering this idea What **NEW insight** not already stated in the text can you **add** about why the author wants to emphasize this point? Do NOT say - The author repeats this phrase because it is important, wants to stress a point or wants us to remember this idea. There are lots of reasons people repeat things (ie. because they are trying to convince themselves of something, because they are nervously worried or paranoid and cannot let something go in, it's an anxiety or concern, to reassure others, to express an act of determination, etc.) • _____ repeats the phrase "_____" to … (warn, encourage, convince, reassure, indicate concern or paranoia, express an act of determination) • <u>Name of author</u> repeats the phrase "_____" in order to create the feeling that … • Words such as "_____" and "_____" appear more than once, suggesting that…
Sentence Length & Sentence structure	What is significant about the sentence length? Is there a pattern of short sentences? Is the sentence a single word or an incomplete sentence? Is there a pattern of sentences all starting in a similar way? • The shortness of this sentence sounds (severe, commanding, childlike, urgent, etc.) because . . .
Punctuation Ellipsis . . . Exclamation points	The ellipsis indicates a trailing off or pause. Explain the reason or cause of why the speaker has trailed off or paused and what would have been said. • The reason _____ is trailing off / pausing is because … (ie. there is an unwillingness to indicate his/her thoughts, to indicate confusion, disapproval, hesitation, etc.)
Allusion a reference in literature to a well-known person, place, event or another text (i.e. The Bible)	*Example*: Lincoln's opening and closing of "The Gettysburg Address" refer to the birth of our nation and allude to "The Declaration of Independence." The formal "four score and seven years ago," when our country was "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" create an eloquent and serious tone that honors the sacrifices that soldiers have made in the Civil War. • The phrase "_____" is an allusion to <u>title of piece of well-known literature.</u> This allusion helps the reader see the similarity between _____ and _____, which helps to….