

Q1 reading and writing assignment: stylistic choices and reflection

Guidelines: Using the text that you chose to read, identify a stylistic feature, offer some comments about the effects of those features, and then try to move toward the topics, and perhaps the themes of the text as a whole. There is an example of strong work on the reverse of this page.

Choose at least one of these stylistic features to examine in your chosen author's work. You may always use an element that we do not list here; however, we have included a few examples:

LANGUAGE	STRUCTURE	TECHNIQUE
Metaphor Dialect Word choice, i.e. colloquial, foreign, etc. Connotation	Temporal structure, i.e. use of time Flashbacks, digressions, and tangents Openings and closings Syntax	Symbol Allusion Point of view

Chosen stylistic feature(s):

What are the effects of these features, i.e. how do they affect the meaning, the readers' reactions, etc.?

Meaning: perhaps the most difficult aspect of analysis, this concept requires students to deal with the larger, thematic concepts of the text. What point is the author trying to make about life, society, people? These are the more powerful and sometimes abstract ideas of the text.

Exemplar using *City of Glass*, by Paul Auster

Choose at least one of these stylistic features to examine in your chosen author's work:

Hyperbole: "endless steps"

What are the effects of these features, i.e. how do they affect the meaning, the readers' reactions, etc.?

The over-exaggeration of the size and complexity of New York (comparing it to an endless maze) emphasizes how miniscule individuals are, suggesting that people are forgettable amidst the busyness of the world. Additionally, the steps being "endless" makes it seem as though one can never reach the top / can never feel truly satisfied in life, as if Quinn feels like he is chasing impossible fulfillment.

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Throughout City of Glass, Quinn struggles to find his own identity and make some impact in the world (perhaps his entire reasoning for taking the case). He lives in a mundane environment and feels as though he is not living fully, but simply going through the motions, so he constantly wonders if his life has any meaning at all. The novel deals heavily with Quinn's self-conflict, for he cannot decide if he would rather live invisibly and be distanced from his identity, or take hold of his identity and assume the responsibility and hardship associated with it (but perhaps finding some meaning through this process).