

## DIDL'S Breakdown

### DIDL'S

Diction, Imagery, Details, Language, and Syntax  
 Use *diction* to find tone. Use *imagery, details, language and syntax* to support tone.

### TOPE

Author's attitude toward the subject, toward himself, or toward the audience.

### DICTIOP

Adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, negative words, positive words, synonyms, contrast.  
 Look at the words that jump out at you - Evaluate *only those words* to find tone

Also look at:

Colloquial (Slang)	Old-Fashioned
Informal (Conversational)	Formal (Literary)
Connotative (Suggestive meaning)	Denotative (Exact meaning)
Concrete (Specific)	Abstract (General or Conceptual)
Euphonic (Pleasant Sounding)	Cacophonous (Harsh sounding)
Monosyllabic (One syllable)	Polysyllabic (More than one syllable)

• Describe diction (choice of words) by considering the following:

1. Words can be *monosyllabic* (one syllable in length) or *polysyllabic* (more than one syllable in length). The higher the ratio of polysyllabic words, the more difficult the content.
2. Words can be mainly *colloquial* (slang), *informal* (conversational), *formal* (literary) or *old-fashioned*.
3. Words can be mainly *denotative* (containing an exact meaning, e.g., dress) or *connotative* (containing suggested meaning, e.g., gown)
4. Words can be *concrete* (specific) or *abstract* (general or conceptual).
5. Words can *euphonic* (pleasant sounding, e.g., languid, murmur) or *cacophonous* (harsh sound, e.g., raucous, croak).

### IMAGERY

Creates a vivid picture and appeals to the senses

Alliteration repetition of consonant sounds at the start of a word  
 Assonance repetition of vowel sounds in the middle of a word  
 Consonance repetition of consonant sounds in the middle of a word  
 Onomatopoeia writing sounds as words  
 Simile a direct comparison of unlike things using like or as  
 Metaphor a direct comparison of unlike things

Hyperbole	a deliberate exaggeration for effect	
Understatement	represents something as less than it is	
Personification	attributing human qualities to inhuman objects	
Metonymy	word exchanged for another closely associated with it	
Pun	play on words - Uses words with multiple meanings	
Symbol	something that represents/stands for something else	
Analogy	comparing two things that have at least one thing in common	
Oxymoron	Use of words seemingly in contradiction to each other	

The giggling girl gave gum.
Moths cough and drop wings
The man has kin in Spain
The clock went tick tock
Her hair is like a rat's nest
The man's suit is a rainbow
I'd die for a piece of candy
A million dollars is okay
The leopard cried for water
Uncle Sam wants you!
Shoes menders mend soles.
the American flag
A similar thing happened...
bittersweet chocolate

### DETAILS

specifics the author includes about facts - his opinion.

### LANGUAGE

• Words that describe the entire body of words in a text - not isolated bits of diction

Artificial	false	Literary	apparent, word for word
Bombastic	pompous, ostentatious	Moralistic	practical, righteous
Colloquial	vernacular	Obscure	unclear
Concrete	actual, specific, particular	Obvise	everyday, common
Connotative	alludes to; suggestive	Ordinary	didactic, scholastic, bookish
Cultural	cultivated, refined, finished	Pedantic	clear, obvious
Depraved	cut-off, removed, separated	Plain	lyric, melodious, romantic
Emotional	expressive of emotions	Poetic	exact, accurate, decisive
Esoteric	understood by a chosen few	Precise	pompous, gaudy, inflated
Euphemistic	insincere, affected	Provincial	rural, rustic, unpolished
Exact	verbal, precise	Scholarly	intellectual, academic
Figurative	servng as illustration	Sensuous	passionate, lascivious
Formal	academic, conventional	Simple	clean, intelligible
Grotesque	hideous, deformed	Slang	lingo, colloquialism
Homespun	folksy, homey, native, rustic	Symbolic	representative, metaphorical
Idiomatc	Peculiar vernacular	Trite	common, banal, stereotyped
Inspid	uninteresting, tame, dull	Informal	casual, relaxed, unofficial
Jargon	vocabulary for a profession	Vulgar	coarse, indecent, tasteless
Learned	educated, experienced		

• Rhetorical Devices - The use of language that creates a literary effect - enhance and support

- Rhetorical Question food for thought; create satire/sarcasm; pose dilemma substituting a milder or less offensive sounding word(s)
- Euphemism universal comments, sayings, proverbs - convey major point
- Aphorism also called refrain; repeated word, sentence or phrase
- Repetition main point said in another way
- Restatement Either verbal or situational - good for revealing attitude
- Irony refers to something universally known
- Allusion refers to something universally known
- Paradox a statement that can be true and false at the same time

### SYNTAX

Consider the following patterns and structures:

Does the sentence length fit the subject matter?	1
Why is the sentence length effective?	2
What variety of sentence lengths are present?	3
Sentence beginnings - Variety or Pattern?	4
Arrangement of ideas in sentences	5
Arrangement of ideas in paragraphs - Pattern?	6
Construction of sentences to convey attitude	7
Declarative assertive - A statement	8
Imperative authoritative - Command	9
Interrogative asks a question	10
Simple Sentence one subject and one verb	11
Loose Sentence details before the subject and verb - happening now	12
Periodic Sentence details before the subject and verb - reflection on a past event	13
Juxtaposition normally unassociated ideas, words or phrases placed next together	14
Parallelism show equal ideas; for emphasis; for rhythm	15
Repetition words, sounds, and ideas used more than once -	16
rhythm/emphasis	17
Rhetorical Question a question that expects no answer	18