

## **SWIMTAG –**

### **SOUND**

Read passage aloud several times, noting only obvious effects.

Listen for alliteration, assonance, anaphora and repetitions

- B D G, P T K = stops [harder, harsher sounds]
- S F Z H [softer sounds, winds, whispers]
- M N =nasals [moaning, humming, possibly sadness]
- L R = liquids [flowing, trilling]
- O and/or U [round, impressive, monumental, solemn]
  
- polysyndeton – heaping, piling on: drawing out or rushing
  
- anaphora – demands attention

### **WORD ORDER**

How does word order affect narrative

- first and last position
- series of words, phrases, clauses [build up or let down]
- juxtaposition, oxymoron [surprise, double-take]
- asyndeton [non-stop action]
- ellipsis
- chiasmus [balance, completion, embracing]
- synchysis [interlocks word meanings literally or impressionistically]
- framing [words actually surround central objects]
- tmesis [overturning, emphasis]

### **WORD CHOICE**

unusual words- unusual use of ordinary words

- echoes [law, religion, other literature]
- exotic or foreign words
- puns
- other wordplay

### **IMAGES**

What pictures form in your mind as you read?

- similes, metaphors, hyperbole
- contrast, colors
- concrete objects
- action sequences

### **METER**

Consider this with Sound – often reflects pace or mood

3+ dactyls or spondees in any line=special effects

- dactyls=faster, lighter, lilting

- spondees=slower, heavier, grander
- elisions=halting, emotional, fearful?

## **MOOD**

Look at adjectives and verbs. Is the mood

- formal
- tragic
- frightening
- joyous
- foreboding
- humorous

## **TONE**

Can you sense or infer the author's attitude about the characters or the action? Is he

- sympathetic
- sarcastic
- amused
- judgmental

## **THEME**

Does the passage relate to the overall theme of the work?

- references to philosophical or political beliefs
- illustrates purpose of the work
- does it universalize the story

## **ALLUSIONS**

Note

- proper nouns
- characters and/or places from myths
- customs
- beliefs,
- history or geography

## **GRAMMAR**

Look at

- pattern of verb tenses [unexpected?]
- person of verb [who speaks to whom / is there an exchange]
- passive verbs
- imperatives or gerundives
- interjections
- complex sentence structure
- where are the adjectives
- short or abrupt sentences