

## Exploring Author's Language

Read the passages below from *The River*. Underline the literary device in each passage. Then fill in the blank with the correct literary device to label each passage.

metaphor  
sensory words

alliteration  
onomatopoeia

simile

idiom  
personification

1

The mud was so thick it pulled his right tennis shoe off, and when he groped to find it the mud held his arm, seemed to pull at him, tried to take him down.

2

The mosquitoes. Tearing at him, clouds of them, the awful, ripping, thick masses of the small monsters trying to bleed him dry.

3

Like a camera taking pictures with a strobe light, things would seem frozen in time.

4

He met a girl in school, Deborah McKenzie. They hit it off and went on a few dates.

5

... curling up into his eyes there came the tiny flicker of new flame.

6

... see nothing but images frozen in the split instants of brilliance from the lightning.

7

But there it was again. A hissing? Was that it?  
No.  
It was lower than that. Not to be heard, but felt.  
A whooshing — water.  
A water sound.