

Rhetorical Devices Worksheet #4

Please match the term on the left with its closest definition, example, or clue on the right. Remember to pay particular attention to all italicized text.

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| _____ 1. pathetic fallacy | a. mirrors eye movement in focus and sequence |
| _____ 2. polysyndeton | b. example: "As he harpooned the mammoth whale, the ocean reared and washed his boat asunder." |
| _____ 3. post hoc fallacy | c. demonstrating a lack of traditional 3 rd -person narration; a rush of thoughts; interiority |
| _____ 4. predicate adjective | d. examples: "A red hot anger ran through her," and "Lemons and sauerkraut gave way to a cacophony of acrid tastes in his mouth." |
| _____ 5. predicate nominative | e. description, definition, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, narration, example, process, classification/division, and argumentation |
| _____ 6. red herring | ab. paves the way for believability |
| _____ 7. rhetoric | ac. example: "Would you lend me a hand?" |
| _____ 8. rhetorical modes | ad. example: "There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." This little bit of amusing wisdom comes from celebrated playwright Oscar Wilde. He was known for his incisive use of humor to shed light on the human condition. |
| _____ 9. sarcasm | ae. example: "My mother was a teacher." |
| _____ 10. satire | bc. example: "My mother was beautiful." |
| _____ 11. semantics | bd. This term refers to a reader's eager agreement to sink into a fiction without constantly regarding it as a fiction while he/she is experiencing it. For instance, we agree to see Billy Budd as a real sailor, despite the fact that we know he is entirely Melville brain child. |
| _____ 12. spatial order | be. example: Edgar Allan Poe's first-person commentator in "The Tell-Tale Heart"--After all, he begins by telling us how sane he is and then goes on to explain how he calmly and methodically murdered a poor, defenseless old man and buried his dismembered body beneath his floorboards. I don't know about you, but I'm not going to trust the information I receive from such a character. His perception is too compromised. |
| _____ 13. stream of consciousness | cd. can refer to two distinct sorts of "thought completers": predicate nominatives or predicate adjectives (Obviously, this is not the answer for either #4 or #5.) |
| _____ 14. style | ce. term referring to the specific meaning of a word . . . takes into account connotative meanings as well as denotative. For instance, there is an inherent difference between a fire and a blaze. |
| _____ 15. subject complement | dc. a form of verbal irony intended as insult--for example, saying the following to an employee who arrives 30 minutes late to work, "Oh, I see that punctuality is your strong suit." |
| _____ 16. subordinate clause | abc. example: Milton's claim that Satan, ". . . pursues his way, and swims, or sinks, or wades, or creeps, or flies." |
| _____ 17. suspension of disbelief | abd. can be as small as one word (however, therefore, moreover, etc.) or as long as an entire small paragraph intended to bridge ideas on either side of it gracefully |
| _____ 18. symbol | abe. term referring to the art of persuasion |
| _____ 19. synecdoche | acd. example: "I got sick right after I lied to my parents. That fever and sore throat must have been my punishment for being dishonest." |
| _____ 20. synesthesia | ace. employment of humor in order to inspire change--don't confuse it with its meaner cousin, sarcasm. |
| _____ 21. tone | ade. You should always include mention of this in your exam essays, but please be sure to mention it as specifically as possible. Also, please avoid tepid, listless descriptors like strong, intense, or vivid. Instead, choose descriptors that deliver real meaning: celebratory, despondent, nostalgic, bitter, insistent, forgiving, and fearful are a few good possibilities. |
| _____ 22. transition | bcd. an attempt to baffle listeners with unrelated information; for example: "I think there is great merit in making the requirements stricter for the graduate students. I recommend that you support it, too. After all, we are in a budget crisis and we do not want our salaries affected." |
| _____ 23. unity | bce. a reference that sparks objective meaning in the minds of the listeners or readers; for instance, the forest often suggests the dark recesses of the human mind. |
| _____ 24. unreliable narrator | bde. characteristics that makes a work recognizable as the creation of its composer |
| _____ 25. verisimilitude | abcd. According to C. Hugh Holman, it is, "The concept that a literary work shall have in it some organizing principle to which all its parts are related so that, viewed in the light of that principle, the work is an organic whole." |
| _____ 26. wit | abce. contains a subject and a verb but does not reflect a complete thought; for instance, "because I could not stop for death," "that I have all the qualities of a winner," or "while the jury is out." |