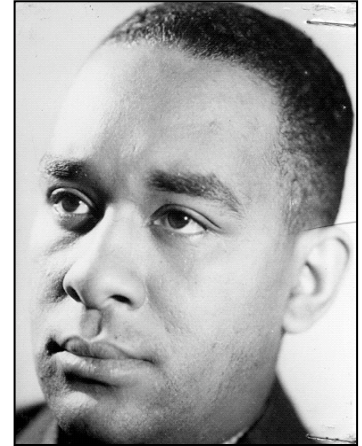


- Remember: We analyze diction – or imagery, tone, sentence structure or any other literary or rhetorical device – only in order to point out how it contributes to the writer’s overall purpose.
- The topic sentence of a style analysis paragraph should be a thesis statement that directly assesses the writer’s main idea. The meat of the paragraph analyzes *how* the author’s choices of devices contribute to that main idea.



Your Assignment: Style Analysis

- 1) Read chapters 1-14 of *Black Boy* by Richard Wright. These chapters constitute the original text, published in 1945. In later years, a “Part II” was added to the work. Part II is not mandatory reading.
- 2) As you progress through the text, *read like a writer*. In other words, pay attention to *how* Wright uses literary techniques and rhetorical devices to create meaning. Read it with a pen in hand, ready to take notes on the stylistic devices Wright utilizes. If you own your book, you should write in it!
- 3) Break your reading into three sections: Chapters 1-3, 4-7, and 8-14.
- 4) For each section, look for crucial areas of the story where the writer’s *style choices* contribute to the work’s overall meaning. As you do so, keep in mind two of Wright’s purposes for writing:
 - Written by an African-American who grew up in the 1930s, *Black Boy* serves as an important part of the literary canon: it boldly expresses how the Black community is not going to stand for the Jim Crow laws, segregation, and oppression that were prevalent in post-slavery America.
 - *Black Boy* is also a *Bildungsroman*, a work of literature that traces the protagonist’s journey from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood.
- 5) For each of the three sections, you should write a 1-2 page (typed, double-spaced) analysis of where, why, and how Wright’s stylistic decisions contribute to the book’s meaning. Start each section by discussing Wright’s main purpose and then analyze how he created that purpose through the devices he chose. Each analysis should focus on a few different devices.



- 6) You may NOT write more than 2 pages of analysis per section. You should come to school on the first day with a maximum of five pages of total written work. Do not overwrite – good writing is sharp and concise.
- 7) In September, a written assessment on the summer reading assignment will be given in class. Your notes will not be collected, but they will serve as preparation for the first essay.