Name _____   Period _____

Standards Focus: Elements of Style

Style is a literary technique used by an author to create a piece of literature that reveals the author's uniqueness. Word choice, figurative language, imagery, rhythm, sentence structure, foreshadowing, symbolism, use of dialect, and other literary devices, all work together to make an author's writing distinctive. The style in which an author writes influences how well we understand and identify with the literature, and reveals an author's biases and beliefs.

William Golding's writing uses numerous techniques of style to make *Lord of the Flies* such a literary success. He uses symbolism, imagery, and repetition of ideas and situations extensively. He also uses some difficult vocabulary, foreshadowing, long wordy sentences, and smatterings of dialect.

Directions: Identify the elements of style that are being used in each of the following excerpts, choosing from the box below. Elements may be used more than once, and there may be more than one right answer for each. Once you have identified the elements of style that have been used, explain the effect that these techniques have on the reader. An example has been done for you.

short, simple sentences	clear rhythm pattern	plain, simple vocabulary
heightened vocabulary	foreshadowing	figurative language
symbolism	repetition	sensory images
dialect	long, wordy sentences	

Ex. "The tide was coming in and there was only a narrow strip of firm beach between the water and the white, stumbling stuff near the palm terrace. Ralph chose the firm strip as a path because he needed to think, and only here could he allow his feet to move without having to watch them. Suddenly, pacing by the water, he was overcome with astonishment. He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one's waking life was spent watching one's feet."

Elements of style: <u>sensory images, figurative language, symbolism</u>
Effect: <u>This passage uses sensory images (sight) to create for the reader a mental picture of the place Ralph chose to do his thinking. Ralph comes to a startling revelation about life as he paces, symbolic of every man's journey through life. Figurative language (personification) is used in "every path was an improvisation" to give life to his writing.</u>

1. "This wind pressed his grey shirt against his chest so that he noticed—in this new mood of comprehension—how the folds were stiff like cardboard, and unpleasant; noticed too how the frayed edges of his shorts were making an uncomfortable, pink area on the front of his thighs. With a convulsion of the mind, Ralph discovered dirt and decay, understood how much he disliked perpetually flicking the tangled hair out of his eyes, and at last, when the sun was gone, rolling noisily to rest among dry leaves." (76)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

2. "…the littlun wept. His face puckered, the tears leapt from his eyes, his mouth opened till they could see a square black hole. At first he was a silent effigy of sorrow; but then the lamentation rose out of him, loud and sustained as the conch. 'Shut up, you! Shut up!' Percival Wemys Madison would not shut up. A spring had been tapped, far beyond the reach of authority or even physical intimidation. The crying went on, breath after breath, and seemed to sustain him upright as if he were nailed to it. 'Shut up! Shut up!' For now the littluns were no longer silent. They were

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reminded of their personal sorrows; and perhaps felt themselves to share in a sorrow that was universal. They began to cry in sympathy, two of them almost as loud as Percival." (87)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

3. "Ralph turned involuntarily, a black, humped figure against the lagoon. The assembly looked with him, considered the vast stretches of water, the high sea beyond, unknown indigo of infinite possibility, heard silently the sough and whisper from the reef." (88)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

4. "Simon's effort fell about him in ruins; the laughter beat him cruelly and he shrank away defenseless to his seat." (89)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

5. "A flurry of wind made the palms talk and the noise seemed very loud now that the darkness and silence made it so noticeable. Two grey trunks rubbed each other with an evil speaking that no one had noticed by day." (89)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

6. "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages? What's grownups going to think? Going off—hunting pigs—letting fires out—and now!" (91)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____

7. "Bollocks to the rules! We're strong—we hunt! If there's a beast, we'll hunt it down! We'll close in and beat and beat and beat—! He gave a wild whoop and leapt down to the pale sand." (91)

Elements of style: _____

Effect: _____

_____