

Writer's Craft—Style

colloquialism—informal use of slang words or phrases popular to a style or region used to communicate narrator's natural manner of speaking (*What's up? OMG*)

colon [:]—used artfully sometimes by writers to show that something big is about to happen or to focus strong emphasis on following thought

commentary dashes—writer offsets thoughts or commentary within a sentence by using dashes (can add voice to the piece; sometimes used like an aside)

dialect—using language style spoken in a particular region or by a particular group of people (*"Ain't nothin' to worry 'bout."*)

ellipses[...]—used to denote transition of thought, time, or to create a lengthened pause in a sentence

items in list and series—(usually listed in sets of three) items support, enhance meaning of text

italics—used to set off characters' thoughts or to show emphasis in thought, action, or emotion

intentional fragments—the writer purposefully uses a sentence fragment to create an effect within the text (often delivers emotional "punch" in story—deadpan humor, sarcasm, devastation, etc.)

intentional run-ons—the writer purposefully uses a run-on sentence to create an effect within the text

parallel structure—author's repetition of sentence structure, phrasing, or tense for effect

parenthetical expressions—often used as a writer's aside/commentary to readers

repetition—repeating details, words, phrases to create an effect on the reader

rephrasing/restating—word or phrase is restated in a different form to create an impact of the thought

single sentence paragraphs—a single sentence is separated from other paragraphs to create an effect

vivid verbs—writers choose powerful verbs to create emotion or imagery

white space—writer utilizes lack of words on the page to create white space for a dramatic pause or to denote transition in time or scenes (visual caesura)