

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIDLS:**

A Strategy for Reading Closely & Having Better Understanding of Writer's Craft

<b>Diction</b> (word choice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Denotation</b> (literal meaning) vs. <b>Connotation</b> (emotional effect)</li><li>• Ask yourself: <i>What meanings and emotions are attached to the chosen word?</i></li></ul>
<b>Imagery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vivid <b>appeals to</b> understanding through the <b>senses</b></li><li>• Ask yourself: <i>What pictures are created? What sounds can be heard? What can be felt? What personal experiences can the reader associate with these images?</i></li></ul>
<b>Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Facts</b> that are <b>included</b> and those <b>omitted</b></li><li>• Ask yourself: <i>What kind of facts are emphasized? What kind of facts are minimized? What do the details tell the reader about the speaker or the subject or the tone?</i></li></ul>
<b>Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frequently, writers employ <b>rhetorical devices</b>—persuasive techniques that <b>appeal to logic, emotions, and ethics</b>—to develop their arguments.</li><li>• Ask yourself: <i>How do these devices use language to make the writing more memorable and more persuasive? Why is the type of language significant? How does the language reflect the speaker's tone?</i></li></ul>
<b>Sentence Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The way the sentences are put together and work together</li><li>• Ask yourself: <i>Are the sentences long and wordy or short and choppy? Are there intentional fragments or run-ons? How does the sentence structure affect the attitude of the speaker?</i></li></ul>