

Directions: Read both The Stranger and The Meursault Investigation. Write down your observations about the following, with specific examples, as well as anything on The Basic Elements of Style that was distributed with the books:

Vocabulary and Diction

- Are the words monosyllabic or polysyllabic?
- Is the diction formal or informal?
- Colloquial? Slang? Filled with jargon?
- Is the language concrete or abstract?
- Is there a change in the level of diction in the passage?

Syntax

- Are the sentences simple and direct or complex and convoluted?
- Are the sentences loose/cumulative or periodic?
- Is there variety in the sentence patterns?
- Does the author use repetition?
- Does the author use parallel structure?
- Does the author use antithesis?
- Does the author use juxtaposition?
- Are there rhetorical questions in the passage?

Characterization of Meursault / Harun (narrator of TMI)

Tone

- What seems to be the speaker's attitude in the passage?
- Is more than one attitude or point of view expressed?
- Does the passage have a noticeable emotional mood or atmosphere?
- What effect does tone have on the reader?

Figurative Language

- Does the passage use unusual images or patterns of imagery?
- Does the author create analogies, like similes or metaphors?
- Does the author use personification?
- Is there deliberate hyperbole or understatement in the passage?
- Does the author employ paradox or oxymoron to add complexity?
- What part do rhythm and sound devices such as alliteration or onomatopoeia play in the passage?
- What purpose do the figures of speech serve, and what effect do they have on the passage?

It would probably be helpful for you to create a "T" chart to have side by side comparisons.

Looking over your observations, how might they contribute to an understanding of each author's purpose & style?

Be prepared to share your thoughts and observations with the class.