

Ways of READING

A toolkit of features to discover when close reading literary texts.

American Renaissance X



<http://amrenx.dartmouthx.org>

Dartmouth

RHETORICAL FEATURES



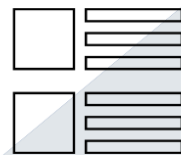
AUDIENCE

Who is being addressed?
What assumptions does the text make about the reader?



RHETORICAL STRATEGY

Does the text position itself through the comportment of the author (ethos), an intended emotional response (pathos), or with a logical argument (logos)?



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

What are the important organizational features?
How does the text introduce and conclude itself?



PRONOUN USE

What pronouns are used?
How do these gesture toward the author or the reader?



NARRATION

What characterizes the narrative voice? Is it written the first or third person?
Retrospective or in the present?

TEXTUAL FEATURES



DICTION

Why were these specific words selected and not others?



CONNOTATION/ DENOTATION

What the implications or assumptions of the connotative meaning of specific words?



REPETITION

What words, phrases, or images, repeat?



SIMILARITIES

Are there similarities of words or phrases within the text? What are the meaning differences of these similarities?



CONTRADICTION OR BINARIES

What oppositional pairings of words or phrases do you see in the text?

LITERARY FEATURES



GENRE

Can you identify the genre of the text? Does it participate in multiple



METAPHORS

Do you see a juxtaposition of two independent ideas or objects used to show



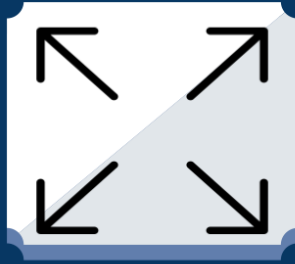
ALLUSIONS

Are there possible references to other texts, people, stories, or myths not explicitly

genres?

similarities between both?

represented within the text?



FIGURATIVE TROPES

Are there examples of metonymy, synecdoche, irony, alliteration, litotes, hyperbole, or personification?



RHYTHM

Does the text produce any sort of rhythm through the repetition of the same or similar sounds?

