Mimic Writing

Purpose: To better understand an author’s techniques and to use those tools to helpenhance your writing. Another perk: This could help your grammar, spelling, and punctuation! Think of this as training wheels. But BEWARE! Beyond this assignment, do not let an author’s style become *your* style. Rather, let it give you ideas on how to develop your own prose, your own “writing voice.”

Prose techniques/devices

* **Point of view** (Which type? For what effect/purpose?)
* **Diction/imagery** (Particular to setting, high/low vocabulary, parts of speech, descriptive, wordiness vs. brevity, “boring” vs. powerful)
* **Figurative** **language** (Simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, etc.)
* **Tone** (Serious, humorous, dark, romantic, etc.)
* **Dialogue** (Particular to setting? Varied among/particular to characters? Conversational? Monologue? Formal/informal? Emotional? Extended vs. short?)
* **Syntax** (Sentence and/or paragraph structure)
* **Punctuation** (Basic or varied for effect, such as the use of semicolons, dashes, or ellipses)
* **Characterization** (Direct/indirect; Round, dynamic, flat, static; believable/relatable)

From the list above, write five items your author uses, and give direct evidence from his/her work.

Author’s name: Book/story name:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Assignment:

* On a separate paper, type a scene or a “micro-story” that mimics your author’s prose style. This is not a rewrite of your author’s work. Be original.
* The topic must focus on a conflict underground (e.g. man vs. society, m vs. supernatural,  
  m vs. self, m vs. machine/science, m vs. fate/destiny, m vs. nature, m vs. man). *Be* *creative* ☺
* Include your **five chosen techniques/devices**, and annotate (label, identify) them in your writing.
* Needs to be 300-400 words (write the word total at the top). Attach this handout, as well*.*
* This will count as a project/major assignment grade.