

## Analyzing Stylistic Choices: Stylistic Word Hunt

All writers are mindful of the language they use and how they use it to make their audiences feel a certain way. McBride does the same in his essay.

Analyze the word choices in the following sentences. In each quote pulled from the article, bland (plain or simple) language has been substituted for McBride's lively stylistic choices.

Find the quotes and figure out which words have been substituted. Write the author's language in the space provided. Then explain how the word choices affect the overall tone of the piece. In other words, how does the author's language suit the author's purpose and audience?

The following sentence starters may be helpful as you answer the questions below.

- By McBride's usage of the word " \_\_\_\_\_," the reader thinks of...
- The word makes the reader feel ...
- The word " \_\_\_\_\_" reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

1. For the next 26 years, I **avoided** that music the way you step over a crack in the sidewalk.

McBride's stylistic word choice: \_\_\_\_\_

What effect does the stylistic choice have? How does it make the reader feel? What does it make the reader think about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Not since the advent of swing jazz in the 1930s has American music **spread** across the world with such overwhelming force.

McBride's stylistic word choice: \_\_\_\_\_

What effect does the stylistic choice have? How does it make the reader feel? What does it make the reader think about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Whatever music it **comes across** becomes part of its vocabulary, as the commercial world falls into place behind it to **take advantage of** the powerful slop in its wake; it metamorphoses into the Next Big Thing.

McBride's stylistic word choice: \_\_\_\_\_

What effect does the stylistic choice have? How does it make the reader feel? What does it make the reader think about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. At its best, hip hop **shows us that we are lacking values** of our generations' legacy.

McBride's stylistic word choice: \_\_\_\_\_

What effect does the stylistic choice have? How does it make the reader feel? What does it make the reader think about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding Questions:

1. Why would McBride choose to use this type of language?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Through his stylistic choices, what impression does he give the reader about hip hop?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Through McBride's use of language, how do you think he feels about society and the world?

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