

Reading Skill

ANALYZE DICTION

An important element of any writer’s style is **diction**, which includes word choice and syntax, or arrangement of words. Woolf chooses words that convey vivid impressions or strong sensations. She often uses complex sentences that cluster several strong words together in a series of short phrases, as in this example:

Then she loomed up, filling the door, filling the room with the aroma, the prestige, the arrogance, the pomp, the pride of all the Dukes and Duchesses swollen in one wave. (lines 112–114)

Directions: In the chart, rewrite each passage listed in the first column in a more conventional sentence structure. Then tell what each passage emphasizes.

Passage	Restated Passage	Impressions or Feelings That Are Emphasized by Woolf’s Diction
“He had a flat; chairs jutted out at the right angles—chairs covered in hide. Sofas filled the bays of the windows—sofas covered in tapestry.” (lines 1-3)		
“And now—now . . . Earls.” (lines 98-101)		
“And from a slit . . . bird.” (lines 133-135)		
“And there open . . . her chair.” (lines 183-185)		