

Name _____ Date _____

Setting the Style

Two distinctive aspects of Gary Paulsen's writing style are long sentences and repeated words. As you read the following passage, pay special attention to these characteristics.

Directions: Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

Then a wild crashing sound, ripping of metal, and the plane rolled to the right and blew through the trees, out over the water and down, down to slam into the lake, skip once on water as hard as concrete, water that tore the windshield out and shattered the side windows, water that drove him back into the seat. Somebody was screaming, screaming as the plane drove down into the water. Someone screamed tight animal screams of fear and pain and he did not know that it was his sound, that he roared against the water that took him and the plane still deeper, down in the water. ~~(28-29)~~

27-28

1. Which word is repeated most often?

2. What effect does this repetition produce? What kind of image does it create in your mind?

3. Why do you think Paulsen writes such long sentences here?

4. Would the passage create the same feelings in a reader if it were written with short sentences? Tell why or why not.

