Use of Literary Devices/Style in Ch.1

Lord of the Flies
Onomatopoeia

“wizzoh” (12)
“whee-aa-oo” (28)
“she-aa-ow!” (11)

Why did the author use this?
- to show innocence and childish nature of the boys (characterization)
Simile

“witch-like cry” (adds to fearful, tense atmosphere) (7)

“black, bat-like creature” (19).

“like the old countries” (boys need for security - connecting this island to their previous understanding of reality = fearful atmosphere and characterization of innocence) (7)
Metaphor

The island could be a metaphor for the Garden of Eden or Utopia. (also an allusion) “The creature was a party of boys” (19).

Both of these add to the fearful atmosphere and will help to develop the theme.
Garment Imagery

“...grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead” (7)

“The fair boy stopped and jerked his stocking with an automatic gesture that made the jungle seem for a moment like the Home Countries (simile)” (7).

Ralph strips off his clothes and jumps in a pool of water until Piggy starts talking about the atom bomb and the possibility of them staying on the island until they die then, “To put on the grey shirt once more was strangely pleasing” (14).
Garment Imagery

As we read, pay attention to the children who cling to their old world identities as demonstrated through garment imagery and those who transform their appearances from school boys to…

Garment Imagery = Characterization
Animal Imagery Connects to Theme

“the scar” made by the airplane
Ralph blew the conch and “Clouds of birds rose from the treetops, and something squealed and ran in the undergrowth” (17).
Children came running and “birds cried, small animals scattered” (17).
Sam and Eric “panting at Ralph like dogs” (19) - also a simile
Squealing piglet and their attempt to kill it (31).
Light and Dark Imagery **Add to Atmosphere**

**WATCH FOR THIS:**

Scary things and acts of ignorance and destruction are often linked with darkness throughout the text. Innocence and security are connected to light.
Allusion to War and Human Domination of Land

- “We was attacked” (8)
- “About the atom bomb? They’re all dead” (14).
- Boys’ domination over the island: their decision that “This belongs to us” and how they “savored the right of domination” (29).
- Their destruction of the island (scar + pushing the rock down the mountain)

Watch for parallels between the adult world (war and destruction) and the new world of the children.
Personification

“the tangles reflections quivered over him” (14). The boys push a rock down the mountain and it passes as “an enraged monster" (28).

Fearful Atmosphere
Pathetic Fallacy

“That storm dragged [the airplane] out to sea” (8).

“The storm that had accompanied his own arrival” (13).

Fearful Atmosphere
Symbolism  Thematic Development and Characterization

Piggy’s asthma = weakness
Piggy’s glasses = intelligence + rational thought
Constant reference to fruit and need for food = innocence (development: Maslow’s hierarchy of needs)

Water = rebirth (Ralph jumps in impulsively becoming one with the island until the realization of their danger hits him and he chooses to return to his school clothes)
Conch = civilization
Voting = “they toy of voting was almost as pleasing as the conch” (22). civilization and innocence

Boys’ actions: laughing at farting noise of the conch; blind obedience to Ralph; “laughing, talking, not listening” (25); thrill at the prospect of “real exploring” and voting
Archetypes (Symbolism)

**Black** = fear and evil (choir boys cloaks; darkness of the forest when they attempt to kill the pig but fail;

**White/Cream** = Ralph’s hair; Ralph and Piggy’s complexion;

**Hunter** = fierce; aggressive

**Creature** (choir boys) = fear and damnation

**Mountain** = realization/true understanding (close to God); descending the mountain (human struggle/journey to understanding the cosmos)
What about diction?

Watch how the boys speak:
“Ass-mar”
“Wacko”
ETC.
Signs of innocence