

LESSON

42

RETEACHING WORKSHEET

Word Choice and Diction

COPYMASTER

Review: **Word choice** and **diction** are useful keys in identifying an author's style. The writer's word choice and word arrangement help establish the **mood** and **tone**.

Directions: Read each boxed passage. Then **answer** the questions that follow.

An elderly woman escaped serious injury by leaping to safety from an apartment fire at 327 Dexter Street Thursday evening. Eleven people were left homeless in the blaze, which fire investigators believe was caused by faulty wiring on a space heater. The woman was hospitalized with scrapes, bruises, and unspecified leg wounds after jumping into a Bradford pear tree from the window of her third-floor apartment. Eyewitness reports indicate that the woman escaped moments before her home was fully engulfed in flames.

I never felt heat like that before, and I've seen my share of summers, boy. My heart was banging so hard I thought my chest would pop. I don't recall how I got to the window ledge. But I do remember the lint and dirt sticking to the cover of that old gray photo album. I was holding that thing to my nightgown like my life depended on it. I swear to God I didn't think I was going to make it, you know what I mean? But here I am, darling. Somehow, here I am.

1. How would you describe the author's style in the first passage?
 - a. Playful
 - b. plainspoken
 - c. journalistic
 - d. literary
2. How would you describe the author's style in the second passage?
 - a. playful
 - b. plainspoken
 - c. journalistic
 - d. literary
3. Which of the two passages uses formal diction? Cite at least three examples of words or phrases to explain your answer.

4. On the back of this sheet, explain which of the two passages uses informal diction. Cite at least three examples of words or phrases to support your answer.