**The opening of *Why Be Happy…?***

As a well-established novelist, Jeanette Winterson employs many features associated with literary, creative writing in her non-fiction autobiography to make it more engaging.

Of course, these features form part of a much larger repertoire of stylistic features and generic features associated with autobiography which add to the text’s impact.

Read through the first pages and try to identify the following stylistic features, thinking about what the effects are.

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| **Feature** | **Example** | **Possible effects** |
| Oxymoron/ contrast/ juxtaposition | “a flamboyant depressive”;“a woman who kept a revolver in the duster drawer” | Mother comes across as contradictory, difficult, dangerous, unpredictable and hypocritical. There is also the sense that she has provided a lot of the flamboyance and theatricality that has fuelled Winterson’s storytelling |
| Language associated with religion. |  |  |
| Language associated with conflict and combat. |  |  |
| Listing. |  |  |
| Simile |  |  |
| Other metaphorical/ figurative features. |  |  |
| Use of pronouns (eg ‘I’ vs ‘we’) |  |  |
| The sense of a voice speaking to us. |  |  |
| Shift from 1st to 3rd person. |  |  |
| Use of repetition (including anaphora) |  |  |
| Humour/ irony |  |  |
| Shifts in chronology |  |  |
| Short sentences for impact. |  |  |
| Climax |  |  |
| Shifts in tense |  |  |
| Dates  |  |  |
| Cultural/ historical references |  |  |
| Use of colloquial or informal vocabulary and references |  |  |
| Sophisticated vocabulary and description. |  |  |