**“Atlantis” Literary Analysis Example**

In the non-fiction piece titled, “Atlantis: Did This Lost City Really Exist?” by Michael Smith and Debora Smith, there are many literary elements and devices used that make this a humorous article. These elements and devices are used by the authors in order to bring a smile and a chuckle to readers’ faces while learning about the lost city of Atlantis. In particular, the authors used onomatopoeia, similes, and conflict to entertain the reader and make them laugh.

The use of onomatopoeia is always an engaging literary device, and that is no exception in this article. The authors chose to use the word, “blub” in order to create a sound like sinking under the water. “They set off earthquakes, raised the seas, and sank the city faster than you can say blub, blub, blub.” This helps the authors to set up their question, “…did Atlantis ever really exist?” The onomatopoeia is helpful to the reader since it creates a picture in their mind.

Another literary device that was used in this article is simile. A simile is such an easy way to help the reader draw a comparison between two different things in order to create imagery and understanding. In this article, Smith and Smith write, “Many experts say Atlantis is about as real as SpongeBob’s pineapple.” They also included, “…food was so plentiful that every night was like an all-you-can-eat buffet.” The comparisons that these similes draw help the audience understand the information more clearly by providing a reference point. They also entertain by connecting to common experiences like watching *Sponge Bob* or eating at a buffet.

Additionally, Smith and Smith chose to use conflict in order to develop a strong article. I can infer that they used conflict in order to create an argument. By creating an argument, the authors were able to look at both sides of the mystery, whether Atlantis ever really existed or not. On one hand they wrote, “He says images of an underwater island near Cyprus show evidence of walls, canals, and a temple hill that fit Plato’s description perfectly.” In order to create an argument and person versus person conflict, they also wrote, “You’d have to have seaweed for brains to believe Atlantis was real, according to some historians.” These two viewpoints are hard to decide between since the authors were so successful in representing both sides of the conflict.

Overall, the authors, Smith and Smith, improved their writing by using literary elements and devices. The devices help to create an article that both educates and entertains. The use of onomatopoeia, simile, and conflict are just a few of the many devices and elements that can be found. Personally, I am glad that the authors chose to use these funny and sometimes silly elements and devices, because without them, I would not have been as thoroughly entertained or know as much about the lost city of Atlantis.