

Section 1 Literary Terms

Academic Vocabulary

Analyze	break down into parts and examine carefully <i>How did the author use setting or characters to propel the plot forward?</i>
Evaluate	judge, determine the value or quality of <i>When evaluating an author's argument, consider if the information makes sense and the evidence backs up his or her claim.</i>
Cite	to quote a piece of writing as evidence for or in support of an idea or opinion <i>Which two examples from the text support your response to an essay question?</i>

Literary Terms

Characterization	when the author brings characters to life the methods an author uses to reveal his characters' personalities
Setting	the time and place of the story
Plot	the plan of the story the series of events that connect to the problem
Exposition	sets the stage for the story; characters are introduced, setting is described, and conflict begins to unfold
Conflict	a problem or struggle between two or more opposing forces
Internal conflict	a character's struggle within himself or herself
External conflict	a character's struggle against nature, another person, or society
Climax	the highest point of interest or suspense in the story, the turning point in the action

Resolution	the conclusion of the story, loose ends are tied up
Theme	the deeper meaning to the story the message or lesson learned
Genre	a category of Literature, examples: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, folklore, drama
Fiction	writing that comes from an author's imagination fake, not real
Protagonist	the main character of the story
Antagonist	the character is force or conflict against the main character
Narrator	the person telling the story, the speaker
Character motive	a reason that explains a character's thoughts, feelings, actions, or speech <i>Ex: fear, love, pride</i> the reason why we do something
Character trait	a special quality or something special about someone's personality, part of characterization
Point of View	perspective from which the story is told
First person point of view	one of the characters within the story is telling the story
Third person point of view	someone outside of the story is telling it
Three types:	
1)omniscient	allows the narrator to relate the thoughts and feelings of <i>all</i> the characters
2)limited omniscient	allows the narrator to relate the thoughts and feelings of <i>only one</i> character

3)camera view	is seeing and recording the action from a <i>neutral</i> or unemotional point of view
Inference	taking something you read and putting it with something you know; a logical guess based on information that is known
Figurative Language	made up of all the tools that a poet or writer uses to create a special effect or feeling.
Examples: Alliteration	the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginnings of several words of a line or poetry or a sentence Example: “...And <u>s</u> wallows calling with their <u>s</u> himmering <u>s</u> ound.”
Personification	when an author or poet gives an animal, object, or idea human qualities, such as the ability to hear, feel, talk, and make decisions Example: <i>Flowers danced about the lawn.</i>
Simile	a comparison between two unlike things using the words like or as. Example: <i>His hair was like moldy hay.</i>
Metaphor	a direct comparison between two unlike things it does not use the words like or as. Example: <i>The road was a ribbon of highway.</i>
Onomatopoeia	the use of words that sound like the noises they describe Example: <i>Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot! The horse hoofs ringing clear.</i>
Idiom	a common phrase made up of words that can't be understood by their literal, or ordinary meaning “ <i>Break a leg.</i> ”
Hyperbole	an exaggeration or overstatement “ <i>chilled through to the bone</i> ”

Imagery	appeals to the senses creates a “picture” in your mind
Symbol	something that stands for or represents something else Ex: <i>The American flag represents freedom.</i>
Allusion	a reference to a well-known person, event, place, literary work, or work of art Ex: <i>Legend of Zelda—Characters go on an odyssey, or difficult quest, referring to the <i>Odyessy</i>, an epic poem about the Greek hero Odysseus taking a long, difficult voyage to reach his home.</i>
Flashback	a scene in a story that interrupts the sequence of events to relate events that happened in the past
Foreshadowing	when an author gives subtle clues to hint at something that’s going to happen later
Mood	a feeling created in a reader by a poem or story
Generalization	a conclusion used to make a broad statement about a topic or person
Author’s Purpose	considering why author is writing: to tell a story, to explain and inform, to persuade, or to instruct
Fact	something that can be proven to be true
Primary Source	first hand or original account <i>Ex: interview transcripts, newspaper articles journal or diary entries</i>
Secondary Source	accounts that are not original <i>Ex: encyclopedia entries</i>
Opinion	someone’s thoughts or feelings about something
Bias	occurs when someone makes an unfair judgment based on a strong opinion

Moral	the lesson taught in stories, most often found in fables
Internal Rhyme	a rhyme within the line <i>“Sam <u>McGee</u> was from <u>Tennessee</u>”</i>
Stanza	a group of lines in a poem separated by a blank
Free Verse	poetry written without a regular rhyme scheme, meter, or form.
Narrative Poetry	includes elements of fiction and poetry 1) setting 2) plot—conflict, climax, resolution 3) theme 4) point of view 5) sound techniques-rhyme, rhythm, repetition 6) figurative language
Cultural Context	the background, customs, and beliefs of the people who originally told folklore
Universal Theme	a message about life expressed repeatedly in many different cultures and time periods.
Legend	a traditional story about the past; based on facts that have been stretched through many retellings over generations