

Literary Terms

Character: A person in a literary work; People and animals who are involved in a conflict in a story.

Characterization: The methods a writer uses to develop the personality of the character.

Character traits: the individual qualities that make each character unique.

Climax: The point of greatest emotional intensity, interest, or suspense in a narrative; the point where tension is greatest.

Conflict: The struggle between opposing forces in a story or drama.

External conflict: A character struggles with some outside force.

Internal conflict: A struggle between opposing desires or emotions inside a person.

Dialogue: Conversation between characters in a literary work.

Falling action: The action that follows the climax.

Fiction: A narrative in which situations and characters are invented by the writer.

Foreshadowing: When the author gives a hint about what might happen in the future.

Narrator: The person who tells the story.

Plot: The sequence of events in a story.

Point of view: The perspective of the narrator or storyteller.

First-person point of view: the story is told by one of the characters referred to as "I."

Limited third-person point of view: the narrator reveals the thoughts of only one character, but refers to the character as "he" or "she."

Omniscient point of view: the narrator reveals the thoughts of several characters.

Resolution: The point in the story in which the conflict is resolved; the part of a plot that concludes the falling action by revealing or suggesting the outcome of the conflict.

Rising action: The part of a plot that adds complications to the problems in the story.

Setting: The time and place in which the events of the story occur.

Title: The name of a literary work.

Theme: A message about life, sometimes called the moral.

Genre: The type of book or story; a category in literature which includes prose, poetry, and drama. Examples: Realistic fiction, science fiction, fantasy, folktale, fairytale, poetry, drama, nonfiction, real world writing, biography, autobiography.

Exposition: The part of the literary work that introduces the characters, setting, and basic situation. (Introduction)

Protagonist: The main character in a literary work.

Antagonist: A character in conflict with the main character.

Denotation: Dictionary definition of a word

Connotation: Feelings associated with a word

Idiom: A type of figurative language. An expression with a meaning that is different from the meaning of the actual words

Main Idea: Central Idea ; key Idea

Theme: A central message in a literary work.

A message about life, sometimes called the moral.

Summary: A shortened version of a text that highlights its key points

Sequential Order (sequence, process, procedural): Information organized in steps, or a process is explained in the order in which it occurs.

Chronological Order: The events are organized in order of time

Order of Importance: Information is expressed as a hierarchy or in priority.

Spatial: Information is organized in order of space (top to bottom, left to right)

Compare and Contrast: Two or more things are described comparing the similarities and differences.

Cause and Effect: Cause is the reason / Effect is the result.

Problem and Solution: A problem is described, and a solution is proposed or explained

Prior Knowledge: Information you already know

Mythology

Mythology: The study of myths

Myth: A myth is a fictional tale that explains the actions of gods or heroes or the origins of elements of nature

Myths explain natural occurrences

Myths express beliefs about right and wrong

Myths explain the creation of the world

Myths teach moral lessons

Myths express the deepest fears and hopes of humans

In many myths gods and goddesses have human traits while human heroes possess superhuman traits

Myths are related to the classical civilizations of Rome and Greece

Greek and Roman myths are known as classical mythology

Myths are part of the oral tradition; they are composed orally and then passed from generation to generation by word of mouth

Oral tradition is the passing of songs, stories and poems from generation to generation by word of mouth, folk songs, folk tales, legends, and myths. No one knows who first created them

Folk tales: Oral tradition. Stories passed on by word of mouth, often over many centuries.

Oral tradition: The passing of songs, stories, and poems, from generation to another by word of mouth.

Fable: A brief story, usually with animal characters, that teaches a lesson or moral.

Fairytales: Stories that have good and evil characters. There is usually a hero or heroine, and magic is involved in most of the stories. Conflicts are usually resolved through an act of kindness.

Trickster tales: Have one character, the protagonist, which is a clever trickster that causes problems for the other characters.

Theme: The central message in a literary work.

Poetry

Sound Devices

Rhyme: The repetition of sounds at the end of words.

Repetition: The use more than once of any element of language.

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds

Onomatopoeia: the use of words that imitate sounds.

Assonance: The repetition of similar vowels sounds.

Consonance: The repetition of consonant sounds. (Word and lord)

Refrain: A regularly repeated line or group of lines in a poem.

Types of Poetry

Narrative: A story told in verse. a poem with all the elements of short stories: characters, conflict.....

Haiku: A three-line Japanese verse form. The first and third lines have 5 syllables, and the second line has seven. The writer uses images to create a vivid picture.

Free Verse: Poetry that is not written in a regular, rhythmical pattern, or meter.

Lyric: A highly musical verse that expresses the observations and feelings of a single person.

Ballad: A light simple poem designed to be sung.

Limerick: A humorous, rhyming, five-line poem with a specific meter and rhyming scheme.

Figurative Language: Writing that is not meant to be taken literally.

Denotation: The dictionary meaning of a word.

Connotation: The connotation of a word is the set of ideas associated with it in addition to its explicit meaning.

Simile: to compare two things using *like* or *as*

Metaphor: To describe something as if it were something else. It's like a simile without *like* or *as*.

Personification: A nonhuman subject is given human characteristics.

Oxymoron: Linking two opposites or contradictory words to point out an idea.

Mood and Tone

Mood: How the reader feels

Mood: How the writer feels; the atmosphere; the emotions

Words That Describe Tone

Amused	Humorous	Pessimistic	Angry	Informal
Playful	Cheerful	Ironic	Pompous	Horror
Light	Sad	Clear	Formal	Resigned
Suspicious	Gloomy	Optimistic	Witty	

Words That Describe Mood

Fanciful	Melancholy	Frightening	Mysterious
Frustrating	Romantic	Gloomy	Sentimental
Happy	Sorrowful	Joyful	Suspenseful

Explicit Textual Evidence

What does Explicit Textual Evidence mean?

Explicit: direct

Textual: from the text

Evidence: support for your answer, opinion, or idea

Inference

An inference is something that you think is true based on information that you have. An inference is NOT directly written in the text. To make an inference, we use evidence from the text, and our prior knowledge. Sometimes we have to “read between the lines.” Authors don’t always tell us everything. We need to use textual evidence and prior knowledge to understand the text better.