

Literary Terms

1. **Allusion** = a reference to a person, place, thing, or idea of historical, cultural, literary, and/or political significance
2. **Antagonist** = A person or group that goes against the main character
3. **Characterization** = the methods that an author uses to reveal a character's traits
4. **Climax/Turning Point** = the most exciting moment in a story leading from the rising action and to the resolution
5. **Conflict** = the struggle/problem experienced by a character (character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, character vs. society, character vs. technology)
6. **Dialogue** = a conversation between characters
7. **Dynamic Character** = a character who experiences change throughout the story
8. **Exposition** = the introduction to a story that provides background information on the characters, conflict, situation, etc.
9. **Falling Action** = the events that occur after the climax of the story and lead to the resolution.
10. **Figurative Language** = descriptions that use words or expressions that are different from the literal meaning in order to be more effective, colorful, and impactful (Ex: Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Hyperbole...)
11. **Flashback** = a break in the plot to go back to an earlier time
12. **Foreshadowing** = giving readers a clue of what may occur at a future time
13. **Hyperbole** = exaggerated, often entertaining statements or claims not to be taken literally
14. **Imagery** = descriptive language used to appeal to the five senses (creates a picture in the reader's mind)
15. **Irony** = when the opposite of what is expected occurs
16. **Metaphor** = a comparison of two unlike things without using "like" or "as"

17. **Mood** = the emotional feeling created by the writer
18. **Onomatopoeia** = words invented to represent sounds (ex: buzz)
19. **Personification** = a technique used in description in which human qualities are given to nonhuman things
20. **Plot** = the sequence of events of a piece of literature
21. **Point of View** = the perspective from which the story is told: *First person, second person, third person omniscient, third person limited*
22. **Protagonist** = the main character
23. **Repetition** = repeating of a word or phrase
24. **Rising Action** = The events that lead up to the climax of a story
25. **Setting** = the time and place in which a piece of literature is set
26. **Simile** = a comparison of two unlike things that includes the words “like” or “as”
27. **Static Character** = a character in literature who experiences little to no change
28. **Symbolism** = a technique that involves one thing (ex: an object, color) to represent something else (ex: an idea)
29. **Theme** = the main point or idea being expressed by a piece of writing (author’s message)
30. **Tone** = the author’s attitude as expressed in a piece of writing