

VOCABULARY

abstract art	a genre of art where an artist portrays emotions or ideas, rather than realistic depictions of the scene. It does not try to show the subject as it appears in real life, rather it uses color, texture, shapes or space to represent an artist's feelings or thoughts
alliteration	the repetition of initial consonant sounds in a sentence, phrase, or even a single word with multiple syllables"
antagonist	the character who opposes the protagonist
character	a person, place, or thing performing actions in a literary work
characterization	the way in which the thoughts, words, actions, and appearance of characters in a story are described by the author
characterization	the revealing of a character through the use of description, dialogue, actions, and interactions with other characters
chronological	arranged in a logical fashion according to time
clause	a group of words containing a subject and a predicate; may form a complete simple sentence, or serve as a part of a complex sentence
climax	a Greek term meaning "ladder," is that particular point in a narrative at which the conflict or tension hits the highest point. Climax is a structural part of a plot, and is at times referred to as a "crisis."
comparative essay	an essay that compares two or more objects, theories, or ideas. It considers both similarities and differences
conflict	the clash of opposing wills or forces
conflict	any opposition between characters or forces
connotation	a side meaning or feeling suggested by a word
connotation	what is suggested by a word beyond its dictionary definition; its overtones of meaning.

context	anything beyond the specific words of a literary work that may be relevant to understanding the meaning
context	the words and phrases that surround a word and help to explain its full meaning
context clue	hints at word meaning found in the text
coordinating conjunction	words used to connect phrases or clauses
denotation	the literal meaning of a word
denotation	a word's strict dictionary definition
direct characterization	an author's direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like
drawing conclusions	using reasoning, inferences, and other evidence to understand a story better or to determine an author's meaning
environment	naturally or unnaturally generated external conditions
epiphany	a major realization that leads to a change in attitude or belief
external	located outside
figurative language	a set of literary devices that use language in a way that goes beyond the ordinary meaning of the words
foreshadowing	an indirect suggestion about what is going to happen
foreshadowing	the use of setting, dialogue, symbols, or actions to hint at what is to come
foreshadowing	the use of clues or hints to let the reader know something, possibly ominous, will occur
historical context	the real-life setting and surrounding circumstances of a story
hyperbole	an exaggeration or overstatement that is used to create emphasis or evoke strong feelings.
idiom	a phrase or expression that means something other than the literal meanings of the individual words.
implied	suggested, but not directly stated
indirect characterization	information about a character and his or her personality revealed through that character's thoughts, words, and actions

infer	to draw conclusions based on knowledge derived from information presented indirectly
infer	to conclude based on evidence
inference	an educated guess made by using context clues to fill in missing information in a story
inferential meaning	the underlying truth that can be derived through an analysis of a literary work
interior monologue	the thoughts, impressions, and emotions flowing through a character's mind as they occur
internal	located inside
irony	inconsistency between what is expected and what actually occurs
landscape	a work of art whose subject is scenes of nature, such as lakes, gardens, and mountains. Landscape, as an art genre, can also include cityscapes – featuring urban settings; seascapes – featuring views of the ocean; and waterscapes – featuring fresh water scenes
metaphor	a figure of speech in which something is described as though it were something else
mood	a feeling that the writer evokes in readers
mood	the overall emotion in a literary work
mood	the impression or emotion evoked by the author's choice of words, imagery, and dialogue
narration	the part of a story in which the action and information about the characters and setting are explained
narrator reliability	the degree to which a reader can trust a narrator to tell a story accurately
omniscient point of view	literally means "all-knowing;" refers to a narrator's knowledge of each of the characters' thoughts and actions, and even of their pasts and futures
onomatopoeia	the use of words that imitate sounds
parallel structure	the repetition of the same pattern of words within a sentence
personification	a type of figurative language where an animal or object is given human characteristics.
physical setting	the places where the action in a story takes place, including geography, the climate, and the physical objects; can change throughout the story

plot	an account of the action and the motivations lying behind the action in a literary work
point of view	the perspective from which a story is told, which depends on the person narrating the story
portrait	a work of art where the subject is a person who is represented in a realistic manner
protagonist	the character who drives the action of the story
Rising action	Rising action in a plot is a series of relevant incidents that create suspense, interest, and tension in a narrative. In literary works, a rising action includes all decisions, characters' flaws, and background circumstances that together create turns and twists leading to a climax.
sensory detail	details used by the author to convey experiences, events, setting, and/or characters
setting	the time and place of action in a story
simile	a figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to point out similar qualities between two unlike things
social/psychological setting	the beliefs or behavior that govern the society in which the characters live
stream-of-consciousness	a form of interior monologue that is spontaneous and free-flowing, often switching topics without the use of transitions
suspense	fearful uncertainty about the outcome of an event
suspense	the feeling of anxiety in a reader as the plot develops
symbolism	the author's use of an object, person, or circumstance to represent something more than its literal meaning
synopsis	a brief summary of events
temporal setting	part of the background of a story, including the time of day, the time of year, and a specific time in history
theme	a story's deeper meaning
theme	a central idea or underlying truth that unifies and controls a work of fiction
theme	the central idea or ideas explored by a literary work

theme	the underlying message or truth communicated in a literary work
theme	the underlying meaning or truth in a literary work
theme	the underlying truth communicated in a literary work
tone	the author's attitude toward the topic
tone	the writer or narrator's attitude toward the subject
tone	the author's attitude about the topic