

English Seminar 2014-2015

Glossary of Terms:

Literature Terms

- Analysis:** The process breaking a complex topic into smaller parts to gain a better understanding of it
- Antonym:** A word that is the opposite of another word.
- Author's Purpose:** The Author's intent either to inform, teach, entertain, or persuade his/her audience.
- Author's Thesis:** The topic and a specific feeling or idea associated with it.
- Characterization:** The method an author uses to reveal characters and their various personalities.
- Climax:** The turning point in a narrative, the moment when the conflict is at its most intense.
- Context clues:** Information from the reading that identifies a word or group of words.
- Dialogue:** Conversation between people in a literary work.
- Evaluate:** Examine and judge carefully.
- Explicit** Clearly expressed or fully stated in the actual text.
- Expository Text:** Text written to explain or to give information.
- Fiction:** A story that is the product of imagination rather than documentation of fact.
- Figurative:** Language that cannot be taken literally since it was written to create a special effect or feeling.
- First Person:** The main character "tells" the story

Fluency:	The clear, easy written or spoken expression of ideas.
Generalization	A conclusion drawn from specific information that is used to make a broad statement about a topic or person.
Genre:	A category used to classify literary works, usually by form, Technique, or content (prose or poetry).
Graphic Organizer:	A diagram or pictorial device that shows relationship
Imagery:	A word or group of words that appeal to one or more senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing and smell.
Inference:	A conclusion based on facts or circumstances; understanding gained by "reading between the lines."
Informational Text:	Nonfiction, written primarily to convey factual information.
Interpret	To give reasons through an explanation to convey and represent the meaning or understanding of a text.
Irony:	The use of a word or phrase to mean the exact opposite of its literal or usual meaning; incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the expected result.
Literary Conflict:	The struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot.
Main Idea:	The author's central thought; the chief topic of a text, or the topic sentence of a sentence.
Metacognition:	Thinking about your thinking
Metaphor:	The comparison of two unlike things in which no words of comparison (<i>like</i> or <i>as</i>) are used (e.g., <i>That new kid in class is really a squirrel.</i>).
Narrative:	A story, actual or fictional, expressed orally or in writing.
Nonfiction:	Factual emphasis; prose writing designed to explain Argue, instruct, or describe (rather than entertain).

Paraphrase:	Restate text or passage in other words, often to clarify meaning or show understanding.
Personification:	An object or idea given human qualities or form (ex. Flowers danced about the lawn.).
Plot:	The sequence in which an author arranges events in a story.
Poetry:	Writing that aims to present ideas and create an emotional Experience in the reader. Poetry may use meter, imagery, rhythm, and figurative language.
Point of view:	The way in which an author reveals characters, events and ideas in telling a story; the vantage point from which the story is told.
Reading rate:	The speed at which a person reads, usually silently
Research:	A systematic inquiry into a subject or problem in order to discover facts or ideas having to do with that subject or problem.
Rising Action:	The part of the plot where the story become more complicated. Rising action leads up to the climax or turning point.
Self-monitor:	A comprehension strategy; knowing when what one is reading or writing is not making sense.
Setting:	The time and place in which a story unfolds.
Simile:	A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (<i>like</i> or <i>as</i>) is used (e.g., <i>She eats like a bird.</i>).
Story Maps:	A visual representation of a story that provides an overview.
Summarize:	To capture all the most important parts of the original text but express them in much shorter space, in the reader's own words.
Symbolism:	A device in literature where an object represents an idea.

Synonym: One of two or more words in a language that have highly similar meanings (e.g., sorrow, grief, sadness).

Theme: A topic of discussion or writing; a major idea broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work.

Composition Terms

- Active voice:** The subject of the sentence performs the action of the verb.
e.g., *The man kicked the can.*
- Audience:** The intended readers of a piece of writing.
- Body:** The internal paragraphs within a piece of writing.
- Compare:** Place together characters, situations or ideas to show common or differing features in literary selections.
- Conclusion:** The ending of the story or the summarization of ideas or closing argument in nonfictional texts.
- Conventions:** Mechanics, usage, and grammar.
- Edit:** A part of the revision process in which the writer corrects grammar, mechanics, and word usage in text to improve the writing in presentation and intent.
- Focus:** The center of interest or attention.
- Fragment:** A group of words that begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation but is not a complete sentence because it is missing either a subject or predicate and/or does not express a complete thought.
e.g., *When the baby sneezed and coughed.*
- Grammar:** The system of rules that provides definition and structure to a given language.
- Introduction:** The opening of a piece of writing that is integral to what follows. The introduction grabs the reader's attention, establishes the main idea or thesis of the writing, and explains how the topic is going to be developed.
- Organizational Strategies:** Methods of organization (e.g., chronological, compare/contrast, problem/solution) that establish topic and purpose, provide support for topic and purpose, address counterclaims, or reiterate main points.

Passive Voice: The subject of the sentence receives the action of the verb.
e.g., The man *was struck by* lightning.

Purpose: The writer's established intent to inform/teach, to entertain, or to persuade/convince.

Redundancy: The overuse of certain words, phrases, or details within a piece of writing. This may also refer to repeated statements of already-established ideas.

Revise: The process by which the writer revisits his or her work and makes changes in content and/or organization. The writer may remove irrelevant or redundant text, expand text to include additional content, or elaborate on existing text.

Run-On Sentence: Two or more complete sentences without correct punctuation or conjunctions to separate them. e.g., The two boys rode their bikes to the park they planned to swim all afternoon.

Sentence Structure: The grammatical arrangement of words in sentences. A complete sentence must contain a subject and a predicate and express a complete thought. The structure of a sentence may be simple, complex, compound, or compound-complex.

Sentence Types: A ***simple sentence*** consists of one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.
e.g., Kathy likes to dance.

A ***compound sentence*** consists of two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.
e.g., Kathy likes to dance, and Brian likes to sing.

A ***complex sentence*** consists of one or more independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.
e.g., Although Kathy likes to dance and Brian likes to sing, neither has tried out for the school play.

A ***compound-complex sentence*** consists of at least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.
e.g., Kathy and Brian, who enjoy dancing and singing, have not tried out for the school play; we should encourage them to audition.

- Sentence Variety:** The presence of multiple sentence structures in a text (i.e., simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) and/or various sentence beginnings that can enhance rhythm or add emphasis to a piece of writing.
- Style:** The writer's choices regarding language, sentence structure, voice, and tone in order to communicate with the reader.
- Thesis:** The basic argument advanced by a speaker or writer who then attempts to prove it; the subject or major argument of a speech or composition.
- Tone:** The writer's established attitude toward the audience, the subject, or the work itself.
- Topic Sentence:** A sentence that describes the main/controlling idea that will be developed within a particular paragraph.
- Transitional Words:** Words that provide cues by indicating the various relationships between sentences and between paragraphs (e.g., *in other words, for example, finally, as a result*).
- Usage:** The process that involves choosing and using the correct word in a piece of writing. Common errors in usage are found in comparisons (e.g., *older/oldest*), verbs (e.g., *lie/lay*), and expressions (e.g., *fewer/less*).
- Voice:** The fluency, rhythm, and liveliness in a piece of writing that make it unique to the writer.
- Wordiness:** When a writer uses more words than are necessary to express a point, detail, or explanation (e.g., *due to the fact that* rather than *because*).

Glossary of Literary Terms

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