

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade Rhetoric and Literary Terms

### Sound Devices

1. alliteration (M) the repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words
2. assonance (I) the repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words
3. consonance (I) the repetition of a consonant sound within nearby words
4. onomatopoeia (M) the use of words which mimic the sounds they describe
5. rhyme (M) the repetition of sounds in two or more words or phrases that appear close to each other in a poem
6. end rhyme (D) rhyme that occurs at the end of lines
6. rhyme scheme (D) the pattern of end rhymes.
7. rhythm (I) refers to the pattern or flow of sound created by the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables
8. meter (I) the regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables

### Literary Elements

1. archetype (I) a character, action, or situation that is a prototype or pattern of human life; a situation, setting, or character that occurs over and over again in literature
2. character (M) **See below** people or animals who take part in the action of a literary work
3. diction (I) word choice intended to convey a certain effect
4. denotation (D) the dictionary meaning of a word.
5. connotation (D) the feelings and attitudes associated with a word
6. flashback (M) a scene that interrupts the action of a work to show a previous event
7. foreshadowing (M) hints or clues that suggest future action
8. imagery (D) the use of sensory details to describe one thing in terms of another
9. mood (M) the overall feeling created by an author's choice of words
10. plot (M) **See below** the sequence of events in which a story takes place
11. point of view (perspective) (D) the perspective from which the story is told
12. first person point of view (D) the story is told from a character who narrates his or her own experiences directly
13. limited 3<sup>rd</sup> person point of view (D) the story is told from the viewpoint of one character who can see only a part of the whole story
14. omniscient point of view (D) the author is outside the story and presents the thoughts of all the characters involved

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- 15. structure (I & D) the framework or organization of a literary selection
- 16. suspense (I) techniques used by the author to keep readers interested in the story and wonder about what will happen next
- 17. theme (D) the “message” that the author intends to communicate by telling the story; these messages are often universal truths
- 18. tone (D) the writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience; it is conveyed through the author’s choice of words and detail
- 19. voice (D) the author’s distinctive style or manner of expression

### Character

- 1. antagonist (M) the protagonist’s adversary
- 2. protagonist (M) the central character of the story
- 3. stereotype (I) a broad generalization or an oversimplified view that disregards individual differences; can lead to unfair judgments
- 4. flat character (M) a character with a single important trait
- 5. round character (M) a complex character with several traits
- 6. static character (M) a character that changes little (or not at all)
- 7. dynamic character (M) a character that changes in response to the actions through which he or she passes
- 8. characterization (M) the methods a writer uses to communicate information about characters to readers
- 9. narrator (M) the speaker who tells the story
- 10. shift (I) a change or movement in a literary piece resulting from an epiphany, realization, or insight gained by the speaker, a character, or the reader

### Plot

- 1. plot (M) the sequence of events in a story
- 2. exposition (D) background material about the characters, setting, and situation with which the author introduces the story
- 3. setting (D) the environment in which the story takes place
- 4. inciting incident (I) interrupts the harmony and balance of the situation and introduces the conflict
- 5. rising action (M) the part of the story in which the tension rises towards the climax
- 6. conflict (D) the central source of tension and drama in the story; the problem
- 7. external conflict (D) the central source of tension is between a character and some outside force, such as another character, society, fate, or nature
- 8. internal conflict (D) the central source of tension is within a character

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9. climax (M) the moment when the action comes to its highest point of dramatic conflict
10. falling action (M) the part of the story that follows the climax and leads to the resolution
11. resolution (D) the conclusion of the story.

### Literary Techniques

1. allusion (I) a reference to a mythological, literary, or historical person, place, or thing
2. analogy (I) a point-by-point comparison between two dissimilar things in order to clarify the less familiar of the two
3. anecdote ((I) a brief account of an interesting incident or event that usually is intended to make a point or entertain
4. dialect (M) a form of language that is spoken in a particular place or by a particular group of people
5. dialogue (M) the actual words that characters speak
6. hyperbole (M) an exaggerated statement used to make a strong effect
7. idiom (D) an expression whose meaning is different from the sum of the meanings of the individual words
8. irony (D) a particular tone created when the speaker intends a meaning that is opposite to the words he or she says
9. sarcasm (I) the use of verbal irony (saying one thing but meaning the opposite) in which a person appears to be praising something but is actually insulting it
10. symbolism (D) an image, object, character, or action that stands for an idea beyond its literal meaning
11. understatement (I) a figure of speech in which the speaker says less than what he or she actually feels

### Figurative Language

1. apostrophe (I) a form of personification in which the absent or dead are spoken to as if present and the inanimate, as if animate
2. metaphor (M) a comparison of two things not using “like” or “as”
3. paradox (I) occurs when elements of a statement contradict each other
4. personification (M) the giving of human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas
5. oxymoron (I) a form of paradox that combines a pair of opposite terms into a single unusual expression
6. simile (M) a comparison of two things using “like” or “as”
7. synecdoche/metonymy (I) a part of something is used to signify the whole; the whole is used represent a part

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### Types/Kinds of Sentences

1. declarative(M) a sentence that makes a statement
2. imperative (M) a sentence that gives a command
3. interrogative (M) a sentence that asks a question
4. exclamatory (M) a sentence that provides emphasis or express strong emotion
5. simple (M) one independent clause
6. compound (M) two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon
7. complex (M) an independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses
8. compound-complex (M) two or more independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses
9. balanced (I & D) phrases or clauses balance each other by virtue of their likeness of structure, meaning, or length
10. antithetical (I) two statements that are balanced, but opposite
11. telegraphic (I & D) statements consisting of less than 5 words

### Rhetoric Techniques

1. antimetabole (I) arrangement of ideas in the second clause in a reversal of the first
2. asyndeton (I & D) deliberate omission of conjunctions in a series of related clauses
3. ellipsis (I & D) intentional omission of a word or words that are readily implied by the context
4. inverted order (D) a sentence with the predicate before the subject
5. juxtaposition (I) a poetic a rhetorical device in which normally unassociated ideas, words, or phrases are placed next to one another, often creating an effect of surprise and wit.
6. natural order (M) constructing a sentence so the subject comes before the predicate
7. parallelism (I & D) a grammatical or structural similarity between sentences or part of a sentence. It involves an arrangement of words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs so that elements of equal importance are equally developed and similarity phrased.
8. polysyndeton (I) deliberate use of many conjunctions for special emphasis
9. repetition (D) device in which sounds, words, and ideas are used more than once to enhance rhythm and to create emphasis
10. rhetorical question (D) question that requires no answer
11. rhetorical fragment (I & D) sentence fragment used deliberately for a persuasive purpose or to create a desired effect

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### Types of Repetition

1. anaphora (I & D)      repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of successive clauses
  2. anadiplosis (I & D)      repetition of the last word of one clause at the beginning of the following clause
  3. epanalepsis (I & D)      repetition at the end of a clause of the word that occurred at the beginning of the clause
  4. epistrophe (I & D)      repetition of the same word or group of words at the ends of successive clauses
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The above terms are defined and divided into categories based on *Laying the Foundation: A Resource & Planning Guide for Pre-AP English Grade 8* (The College Board)

Key to symbols:

- ( I )            Introduced: Students receive exposure to the term and examples of its usage.
- ( I & D )        Introduced & Develop: Students receive multiple exposures to the term and examples of its usage. Students will be expected to recognize usage.
- ( D )            Develop:        Students will be expected to recognize usage and work to develop devices in own writing.
- ( M )            Master:         Students will be expected to recognize usage and its effects and to incorporate devices effectively in own writing.