

Literary Lexicon

A.K.A.: Literary Terms

<p>Allusion A reference to a literary, mythological, or historical person, place, or thing</p>	<p>Irony A contrast between appearance and reality-usually one in which reality is the opposite from what it seems; when one thing is expected to happen or be, and the exact opposite happens</p>	<p>Symbolism The use of any object, person place or action that both has a meaning in itself and that stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value</p>	<p>Point of View The perspective from which the story is told. (1st, 3rd limited, 3rd omniscient)</p>
<p>Foreshadowing The use in a literary work of clues that suggest events that have yet to occur</p>	<p>Epiphany An even in which the essential nature of something – a person, a situation, an object – is suddenly understood in a new way; a sudden realization; an “ah ha” moment</p>	<p>Setting The background against which action takes place The geographical location The occupations and daily manner of living of the characters The time or period in which the action takes place The general environment of the characters, ie social, moral, emotional</p>	<p>Theme A central message or insight into life revealed through the literary work. A lesson about life or people</p>
<p>Suspense The quality of a literary work that makes the reader uncertain or tense about the outcome of events</p>	<p>Motif A recurrent element in a literary work. A pattern or strand of imagery or symbolism in a work of literature</p>	<p>Archetype A type of character, action, or situation that occurs over and over in literature, a pattern that occurs in literature and life</p>	<p>Tone The writer’s attitude or feeling toward a person, a thing, a place, an event or situation</p>
<p>Mood The feeling created in the reader by a literary work or passage</p>	<p>Repetition A device in which words, sounds, and/or ideas are used more than once to enhance rhythm and to create emphasis</p>	<p>Detail Facts revealed by the author or speaker that support the attitude or tone in the work</p>	<p>Sarcasm a sharply ironical taunt; sneering or cutting remark</p>
<p>Alliteration the use of the same consonant or of a vowel, not necessarily the same vowel, at the beginning of each word or each stressed syllable in a line of verse</p>			

<p>IMAGERY The words or phrases a writer uses to represent persons, objects, actions, feelings, and ideas descriptively by appealing to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch). An author may also use animal imagery, as well as light and/or dark imagery</p>	<p>EMPHASIS When important aspects of a story are given important positions and in-depth development Emphasis is created by the use of: Repetition Abundant detail Contrast Mechanical devices such as capitalization, italics, symbols, and/or different colors of ink</p>
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<p>DICTION Word choice. An author often chooses a word because it suggests a connotative meaning that comes from its use in various social contexts.</p>	<p>Denotation The specific dictionary definition of a word</p> <p>Connotation The emotions or associations a word normally arouses in people using, hearing, or reading the word. A word may have a POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, or NEUTRAL connotation</p>
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<p>FIGURES OF SPEECH</p> <p>Words or phrases that describe one thing in terms of something else; always involve some sort of imaginary comparison between seemingly unlike things; not meant to be taken literally</p>	<p>Simile A comparison of two different things or ideas through the use of the words LIKE or AS</p> <p>Metaphor A comparison of two unlike things not using like or as</p> <p>Idiom An accepted phrase or expression having a meaning different from the literal</p>	<p>Personification Writing that gives animals, inanimate objects, or abstract ideas human characteristics</p> <p>Hyperbole A deliberate, extravagant and often outrageous exaggeration; may be used for either serious or comic effect</p>	<p>Pun A play on words that are identical or similar in sound but have sharply different meanings. Puns can have serious as well as humorous uses.</p> <p>Oxymoron A form of paradox that combines a pair of opposite terms into a single unusual expression</p>
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<p>CONFLICT</p> <p>A struggle between two opposing forces</p>	<p>Character vs. Self When a character must make a decision about a problem or struggle he is having with himself</p> <p>Character vs. Character When a character has a problem with another character</p>	<p>Character vs. Nature When a character has a problem with a force of nature, such as cold, storms, earthquakes, etc.</p> <p>Character vs. Fate When a character has a problem with something he can't do anything about, such as God, luck, death, etc.</p>	<p>Character vs. Society When a character has a problem with a tradition or rule of society</p>
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<p>Exposition The author lays the groundwork for the story by revealing the : Setting Relationships between the characters Situations as it exists before conflict begins</p>	<p>Inciting Incident Interrupts the peace and balance of the situation and one or more of the characters comes into the conflict with an outside force, himself, or another character</p>	<p>Rising Action The action and events that take place in the story and build up to the critical moment when the main conflict is confronted</p>	<p>Climax The most critical moment in the story; the point at which the main conflict is at its highest point</p>
<p>Falling Action Events that occur after the climax and lead up to closure and conclusion</p>	<p>Denouement The problem set up in the inciting incident is unraveled; there is a revelation of meaning</p>	<p>PLOT The sequence of events or actions in a short story, novel, play, or narrative poem.</p>	

