

LITERARY TERMS

Characterization: The methods that a writer uses to develop characters. (acronym: STEALS)

Tone/Mood: The attitude of a writer, usually implied, toward the subject or audience

Syntax: An author's use of sentence structure. How a writer uses punctuation and grammatical structure to lead to a specific effect. Consider variety of sentence lengths and shifts in structure.

Word Choice: The specific selection of words and phrases by the author

Denotation—the *literal* meaning of a word

Connotation—the *implied* or associative meaning of a word

Analogy—a comparison of two different things that are similar in some way

Allusion—a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical to add meaning

Symbol: Something used to represent something else.

Symbolism: The use of symbols to represent an idea.

Theme: A main idea or message in a literary work. An entire sentence--complete thought.

SIMILE: An **indirect**, non-literal comparison between two unlike objects using “like” or “as”

METAPHOR: A **direct**, non-literal comparison between two unlike objects (not using like or as)

PERSONIFICATION: Where human characteristics are given to inanimate objects.

HYPERBOLE: Exaggeration or overstatement (bordering on impossible)

UNDERSTATEMENT: A statement that is lessened. The truth of the matter is reduced.

METONYMY: A part of something represents the whole; *All hands on deck.*

IRONY: The opposite of what is expected...with a twist. Verbal, Situational, Dramatic.

WRITING TECHNIQUES

One-word Sentence: A sentence with one word for emphasis.

One-sentence Paragraph: A paragraph with a short sentence for emphasis.

One-word Paragraph: A paragraph with one word for emphasis.

Italics: A visual way to show the reader to read with emphasis. Words are *slanted*.

Gerund: A phrase set off by a Verb+ing. Can be at start, middle, or end of sentence.

Appositive: A phrase, set off by commas, which renames the noun.

Subordinate Conjunction: Start a sentence with one of twenty-one words. E.g.,

As, After, Although, As, Because, Before, If, Since, Until, When, Whenever, Whether, While

Hyphenated Modifier: A word series connected by hyphens that acts as an adjective

Ellipsis: Used for showing that someone is droning on or omitted, or to create a dramatic pause.

Hyphen: Short. Used to connect words together like glue. (en dash)

Dash: Long. Used to show that someone is being cut off in dialogue. (em dash)

Semi-Colon: A punctuation mark that connects two sentences that want to “hang out”

Repetition for Effect: It is when you repeat the same or similar phrase at least three times.

Magic Three: Three different phrases but they are similar in style. (underlined to show only)

Verb Series: When you put a list of actions in a series like a list

Comma for “and”: It was a dark, stormy night.

Slang/Di’lect (dialect): gives characters that “real life” sound

Vivid Verbs: verbs that have punch! Avoid “run”, “talk”, “see”, or “walk” as they are boring.

Preposition: Start a sentence with a preposition and variety is added to sentence styles.

Interjection: A word or short phrase that starts a sentence; usually, emotion.