

## Grade 8 English - English Language Arts

### Literary Terms

Act	a part of division of a play (like chapters in a book)
Adjective	a part of speech that describes a noun
Adverb	a part of speech, which describes or modifies verbs, adjectives and other adverbs
Alliteration	the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginnings of words
Allusion	a hidden or indirect reference to events, people and places in history and other literary works
Antagonist	the character who struggles or fights against the protagonist
Aside	a short comment made by a character that other characters do not hear
Assonance	the repetition of vowel sounds in two or more words close together in a piece of poetry
Atmosphere	the overall feeling that surrounds a text like a blanket. It is very important in descriptive writing
Audience	the intended readers/viewers of a text
Autobiography	a narrative about or from the person writing it
Ballad	a narrative poem with a song-like form usually based on a folk legend, love story or legend
Bibliography	a list of all sources, which have been consulted in the process of writing (For an essay - research paper)
Biography	an account of the life of an individual other than the writer
Blank verse	unrhymed iambic pentameter {in the speeches of the major characters in Shakespeare's plays}
Caption	words beneath a photograph that explain the subject
Caricatures	the exaggerated portrayal of characters in an editorial cartoon
Character trait	a personality quality, how a character behaves
Character Sketch	a brief description of a character, using support and evidence to show that character's attitudes, feelings, thoughts and personality
Characterization	the way an author creates characters
Climax	the turning point of the plot
Coherence	a clear, logical flow in writing with smooth transitions between sentences and between paragraphs
Collage	an artistic composition made of various materials mounted on a surface

Color	the effect of color and shading is emotional. Color can be used symbolically (green for jealousy)
Comedy	a humorous play which usually ends happily for the main character(s)
Comparison	showing the similarities and differences between two things that have something in common
Complication	the twists and turns of the plot from the beginning to the climax
Conflict	the struggle between opposing forces
Contrast	showing only the differences between two things that have something in common
Couplet	a pair of rhyming lines
Critical reading	when you use your knowledge and skill to judge the truth and value of a text
Descriptive	a piece of writing that gives the reader a clear picture of a place, person, event or thing
Dialect	the local form of the language {stay where yer to 'til I comes where yer at!}
Dialogue	conversation between two or more people
Diction	choice or selection of words
Drama	a piece of literature intended to be performed on stage, screen or radio
Dramatic Irony	a situation in which the audience knows something that the character on stage does not.
Dynamic character	a character who changes as a result of events in the story
Editorial Cartoon	a single frame political/current issues cartoon on the editorial page
Emphasis	drawing attention to something by use of color, size or placement
Epilogue	a short section after the end of a piece of literature that explains, comments on the content or extends the storyline
Essay	a short piece of prose usually expressing the point of view of the author. An essay has three main parts; an introductory paragraph, main body and a concluding paragraph
Exposition	the introduction of information necessary for the reader's understanding of the situation at the beginning of a story
Expository	a piece of writing that explains how and why something happens
Extended Metaphor	when the comparison is carried throughout the text
External Conflict	character(s) versus character(s) a character struggling against the outside world (person versus storm)

Falling Action	takes the reader through more ups and downs as the problem is attacked
Fiction	prose in which the characters and events are imaginary.
Figurative meaning/language	when writing is meant to be understood at a deeper level. Figures of speech such as simile, metaphor, personification and other techniques are used to create more vivid, interesting images
First Person Point of View	the narrator is "I", one of the characters in the story. Only one perspective {I knew I wanted to go to the dance, but I wondered why Bill was angry}
Flashback	an episode in a story, which goes back to an earlier time
Focal Point	the main area of interest
Footnote	a note at the bottom of the page to explain a reference in the text
Foreshadowing	hints about what is to come in a story
Form	height, width and depth of a structure which can create perspective
Formal	usually objective writing that deals with more serious ideas and topics
Free verse	a form of poetry that does not follow a set rhythm
Genre	a type of text or literary form
Haiku	a seventeen syllable poem (5, 7, 5)
Headline	words at the top of an article that indicate the topic (much like a title)
Hyperbole	an over-exaggeration {My book bag weighs a ton}
Imagery	language that appeals to the senses of sight, touch, taste, hearing and smell
Informal	writing with the quality of everyday conversation and that shows a great deal of the author's personality
Internal Conflict	a character struggling with a decision or own feelings
Irony	a contrast between what is said and meant (Verbal Irony) a contrast between what a reader expects to happen and what actually happens (Situational Irony)
Layout	how images are arranged in a visual
Lead character (protagonist)	the character around whom the action revolves. This character's appearance, background, feelings and the thoughts are all described in detail
Line	Has length and direction. Lines can suggest movement, order, tension, division and emotion
Literal meaning	what is happening in the writing
Lyric poems	express intense emotional thoughts and moods
Metaphor	a direct comparison {The wind is a dancer

Minor - background characters	these characters are more a part of the setting and atmosphere
Monologue	a lengthy uninterrupted speech by one character to another character
Mood	the feelings and emotions of the author as they come through in the writing, and the feelings that the writing produces in the reader
Narrative	a piece of writing that tells a story
Narrator	the person who tells the story
Nonfiction	any piece of prose writing that is not based on the imaginary.
Noun	a part of speech that is the name of a person, place, thing or idea
Novel	a story published as a separate book. The main difference between a short story and a novel is that novel revolves around many incidents in the main character's life.
Objective	writing that presents factual information and a variety of viewpoints
Omniscient point of View	the narrator is all knowing and describes the thoughts and feelings of all the characters <b>but</b> is not a character in the story. {Helen's teasing made Bill angry but he wasn't going to think about that now. He would get the coolest Khakis to wear to the dance} Imitates a roving camera
One Act Play	a play with only one act
Onomatopoeia	the sound of a word resembles its meaning (snap, pop, buzz, hiss)
Oxymoron	a figure of speech that uses two normally contradictory terms {Beautiful tyrant!, Jumbo shrimp!, Cold fire}
Paragraph	a group of sentences relating to a single idea or topic
Personification	when human qualities are given to animals or objects
Persuasive	a piece of writing in which the author attempts to convince the reader
PLAGIARISM	presenting other people's ideas and words as if they were your own
Plot	the plan, skeleton, framework, sequence of events, or storyline. The components of a plot are Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Resolution
Poetry	a concentrated form of language written in verse with vivid, figurative language, rhythm and sometimes rhyme
Point of View	the perspective from which events are seen, a story is told or an argument is made
Prologue	an introduction to a piece of literature that sets the scene for what is to follow
Proofread/Edit	correct errors in grammar, usage, spelling after you have revised
Props	any object on stage excluding scenery

Purpose	the reason for the creation of a text
Refrain	a recurring passage or phrase in a poem
Repetition	the constant statement of an idea
Resolution	the part of a story after the climax, which pulls together the loose threads of the story
Revise	revisit your work to add new ideas, consult with others, rework or rearrange sections of the writing (rough draft in progress)
Rhyme Scheme	the pattern of rhymes created by the words used at the end of each line
Rhyme	matching word sounds; often used in poetry. When the matching words occur at the ends of the lines of poetry it is called <b>End Rhyme</b>
Rhythm/meter	a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a poem
Rising Action	grabs the reader's attention and creates suspense as the main character's problem begins to unfold
Scene	an episode within a play
Set	the scenery and props of a play
Setting	time, place and circumstances the story or event takes place
Shape	a space enclosed by a line. Shape can be used symbolically (a heart shape for love)
Short Story	prose fiction that usually revolves around a single incident in a character's life. Short stories usually have only one turning point or climax. The essential elements of a short story include setting, characters, plot and theme.
Simile	a comparison using like or as {He is as light as a feather}
Soliloquy	a monologue that is supposed to reflect a character's thoughts and feelings
Sonnet	a fourteen line poem which follows a set rhyme scheme and rhythm
Sources	materials that supply information (encyclopedia, book, web site, magazine, etc)
Stage Directions	instructions for the actors on stage
Stanza	divisions of a poem
Static character	a character remains throughout the course of a story
Stereotype	a fixed idea where all members of a group are made out to be the same without room for individual differences. {Mad scientist} Also known as stock characters
Subjective	writing that a particular viewpoint with support selected to support just that viewpoint
Summary	rewrite the main points in your own words
Surprise ending	an ending where an event is both the climax and the resolution

Suspense	a feeling of excitement and curiosity created by the writing
Symbol	an object, which stands for a quality or idea. {For example a dove as a symbol for peace or a heart as a symbol for love}
Texture	the quality or "feel" of an object's surface
Theme/message	the main idea, moral or message of a text, also known as the central insight
Thesis	The position/opinion the writer is trying to defend
Third Person limited Point of View	the narrator tells the story as he, she or they {Helena knew she wanted to go the dance but she wondered why Bill was angry}
Thumbnail Sketch	a "rough draft" of a visual
Tone	the way a writer's choice of words reveals his or her attitude towards the subject, characters and reader
Topic Sentence	a sentence which expresses the main idea of a paragraph
Tragedy	a serious play which sometimes leads to the death of the main character(s)
Unity	a quality of writing in which all the sentences and paragraphs support one main idea
Verb	a part of speech, which tells what nouns, can do, be and feel