

LITERARY TERMS

KEY

1. The protagonist is the main character in a literary work.
2. The antagonist is a character or force who opposes the protagonist.
3. A foil is a character who provides contrast to the protagonist. Think sidekick.
4. An archetype is something that is considered to be a typical example of a person or a thing in literature
5. A dynamic character undergoes inner change over time.
6. A static character does NOT go through change over time.
7. The setting of a literary work is the time and place of the action.
8. Plot is the sequence of related events that make up a story, sometimes referred to as the story line.
9. Exposition : The introductory material which gives the setting, creates the tone, and presents the characters and other facts necessary to understanding the story.
10. Inciting Force
Initiating Event: Event or character that triggers the conflict. At this point, the opposing forces in the story meet and the conflict becomes most intense.
11. Rising action: A series of events that builds from the inciting force and ends with the climax.
12. Climax : The result of the crisis. It is the high point of the story, the moment of the highest interest and greatest emotion.
13. Falling action : The events after the climax which close the story.

14. Resolution : Concludes the action of the story by revealing or suggesting the outcome of the conflict.
15. Conflict : The struggle between opposing forces in a story.
16. External conflict exists when a character struggles against an outside force such as another character, nature, or society
Examples: Man vs. man, Man vs. nature, Man vs. society
17. Internal conflict exists within the mind of a character who is torn between different courses of action. Example: Man vs. self
18. Characterization : The methods a writer uses to communicate information about the characters in his/her stories.
19. Direct Characterization : The author directly tells the reader about the character.
20. Indirect Characterization : The author drops clues about the character.
21. Point of View : The perspective, or vantage point, from which a story is told.

Main types of point of view:

- a. First person POV: The narrator is a character in the story who can reveal only personal thoughts and feelings and what he or she sees and is told by other characters.
- b. Second person: The narrator is you. The story is told from the reader's point of view.
- c. Third person OBJECTIVE : The narrator is an outsider who can report only what he or she sees and hears. A "fly on the wall" perspective.
- d. Third person LIMITED : The narrator is an outsider who sees into the mind of one of the characters.
- e. Third person OMNISCIENT : The narrator is an all-knowing outsider who can enter the minds of more than one of the characters.

22. Foreshadowing : An author's use of hints or clues as to what might happen later in the story. It builds suspense and prepares the reader for what is to come.
23. Flashback : Occurs when the author narrates an event that took place before the current time of the story.
24. Verbal Irony : The contrast between what is said and what is meant or expected.
25. Situational Irony : The contrast between what happens and what is expected to happen.
26. Dramatic Irony : Occurs when the audience knows more than the characters do.
27. Tone : The author's **attitude** toward a subject.
28. Mood : The choice of settings, objects, details, images, and words all contribute towards creating a specific _____.
29. Style : The distinctive way in an author uses language.
30. Parallelism : The use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same or similar in sound and/or meaning.
31. Rhetoric is a technique of using language persuasively in spoken or written form
- Pathos : Appeal to reader's emotions
 - Ethos : Appeal to reader's ethics and credibility
 - Logos : Appeal to reader's sense of logic
32. Symbolism : A person, place, or object that has a meaning other than the obvious.
33. Theme : The main idea or underlying meaning of a literary work.
34. Imagery : Language that appeals to the senses.

35. Simile : A figure of speech that compares seemingly unlike things using the words like or as.
36. Metaphor : A type of speech that compares or equates two or more things that do NOT use like or as.
37. Alliteration : The repetition of sounds, most often consonant sounds, at the beginning of words.
38. Personification : A figure of speech in which an animal, object, force of nature, or idea is given human qualities or characteristics.
39. Onomatopoeia : Use of words that mimic the sounds they make.
40. Hyperbole : An extremely-exaggerated statement
41. Idiom : Expression means something different than what it says.
42. An oxymoron is a figure of speech that is a combination of seemingly contradictory words. (e.g. same difference, pretty ugly)
43. Denotation : Literal meaning of a word or dictionary definition.
44. Connotation : Thoughts, feelings, and images associated with a word.
45. Allusion : A reference in a literary work to a person, place, or thing in history or even another literary work.
46. Paradox : A statement that is seemingly contradictory and yet is perhaps true
47. Genre : Category of literature or other forms of art or culture.
48. Satire is the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices.