

English Academic Language

1. Theme:

The theme is the central idea or message in a work of literature.

2. Plot:

The word plot refers to the chain of related events that take place in a story.

3. Exposition:

Exposition is the part of a literary work that provides the background information necessary to understand characters and their actions.

4. Rising Action:

Rising action refers to the part of the plot in which complications develop and the conflict intensifies, building to the climax, or highest point of interest and intensity in the plot.

5. Climax:

In dramatic or narrative literature, the climax is the moment when the interest and emotional intensity reach their highest point.

6. Falling Action:

In a dramatic or narrative work, the falling action occurs after the climax, or high point of intensity or interest.

7. Resolution/Denouement:

Resolution and denouement show the results of the major events and resolves loose ends in the plot.

8. Setting:

Setting is the time and place of the actions of a short story, novel, play, narrative, poem, or narrative nonfiction work.

9. Antagonist:

The antagonist in a work of literature is the character or force against which the main character, or protagonist, is pitted.

10. Protagonist:

The central character in a story or play is called the protagonist.

11. Connotation:

Connotation is the emotional response evoked by a word.

12. Denotation:

Denotation is the literal or dictionary meaning of a word.

13. Figurative Language:

Figurative language is language that communicates ideas beyond the literal meanings of the words.

14. Metaphor:

A metaphor is a form of figurative language that makes a comparison between two things that have something in common.

15. Simile:

A simile is a stated comparison between two things that are actually unlike but that have something in common using like or as.

16. Hyperbole:

Hyperboles is a figure of speech in which the truth is exaggerated for emphasis or for humorous effect.

17. Personification:

Personification is a figure of speech in which human qualities are attributed to an animal, or idea.

18. Foreshadowing:

Foreshadowing is a writer's use of hints or clues to indicate event that will occur later in a narrative.

19. Hero:

The word her has come to mean the main character in a literary work.

20. Tragic Hero:

A tragic her refers to a central character in a drama who is dignified or noble.

21. Symbol:

A symbol is a person, place, or object that represents something beyond itself.

22. Symbolism:

The practice of representing things by symbols.

23. Allusion:

An allusion is an indirect reference to a historical or literary person, place, thing, or event with which the reader is assumed to be familiar.

24. Mood:

Mood is the feeling, or atmosphere, that a writer creates for the reader.

25. Tone:

Tone is the attitude a writer takes toward a subject.

26. Nonfiction:

Nonfiction is prose writing that is about real people, places, and events.

27. Fiction:

A work of fiction is a narrative that springs from the imagination of the writer, though it may be based on actual events and real people.

28. Satire:

Satire is a literary technique in which ideas, customs, behaviors, or institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society.

29. Parody:

A parody imitates or mocks another serious work or type of literature.

30. Irony:

- a. **Situational irony** occurs when a character or the reader expects one thing to happen but something entirely different occurs
- b. **Verbal irony** occurs when someone says one thing but means another.
- c. **Dramatic irony** refers to the contrast between what a character knows and what the reader or audience knows.

31. Sonnet:

A sonnet is a lyric poem of fourteen lines, commonly written in iambic pentameter.

32. Rhyme Scheme:

A rhyme scheme is the pattern of end rhyme in a poem.

33. Meter:

Meter is the repetition of a regular rhythmic unit in a line of poetry.

34. Imagery:

Imagery describes words and phrases that re-create vivid sensory experiences for the reader.

35. Alliteration:

Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds.

36. Assonance:

Assonance is the repetition of a vowel sound within nonrhyming words.

37. Tragedy:

In broad terms, tragedy is literature, especially drama, in which actions and events turn out disastrously for the main character or characters.

38. Comedy:

A comedy is a dramatic work that is light and often humorous in tone.

39. Monologue:

A long speech made by one person. A dramatic soliloquy.

40. Dialogue:

Dialogue is written conversation between two or more characters.

41. Soliloquy:

In a dramatic work, a soliloquy is a speech in which a character speaks his or her private thoughts aloud.

42. Dialect:

A dialect is the particular variety of a language spoken in a definite place by a distinct group of people.