

Teal's Writ Lit I Important Literary Terms

General Terms

Author's Intent	His or her reason for creating a particular work.
Conflict	The colliding or clashing of thoughts, feelings, actions, or persons: the problems or complications in the story. All stories have conflicts. There are five basic types of conflict: Character vs. Character: One character in a story has a problem with one or more of the other characters. Character vs. Society: A character has a conflict or problem with some element of society – the school, the law, the accepted way of doing things, etc. Character vs. Self: A character has trouble deciding what to do in a particular situation. Character vs. Nature: A character has a problem with some natural happening: a snowstorm, an avalanche, the bitter cold, or any of the other elements of nature. Character vs. Fate (God): A character has to battle what seems to be an uncontrollable problem. Whenever the problem seems to be a strange or unbelievable coincidence, fate can be considered as the cause of the conflict.
Direct Characterization	The writer states directly what the character is like. Example: Rita was small and fragile looking, but she had immense courage and independence.
Indirect Characterization	• The writer gives the actual speech of the character. Example: "I'm afraid but I'll do it anyway!" said Rita. • The writer reveals what the character is thinking or feeling. Example: As the cold water of the lake wrapped around her legs, Rita trembled at the memory of last summer's accident. • The writer tells about the character's actions. Example: With determined effort, Rita managed to get the rowboat into the lake and clamber aboard. • The writer tells how other people respond to the character. Example: Polly watched from the shore, knowing it was impossible to stop Rita once she had decided to do something. "She is so stubborn!" Polly thought.
Imagery	Used to describe the words or phrases, which bring forth a certain picture or image in the mind of the reader. It is the sensory language and the metaphors that the writer uses to create the atmosphere.
Repetition	A technique in which a sound, word, phrase, or line is repeated for effect or emphasis.
Setting	The place and time in which a literary or dramatic work takes place.
Symbol	A concrete object used to represent an idea. Example: A black object usually symbolizes death or sorrow.
Tone	The overall feeling or effect created by a writer's use of words. This feeling may be serious, humorous, or satiric.

Additional Terms for our Unit on Personal Narratives:

Anecdote	A brief account of an interesting incident or event that usually is intended to entertain or to make a point. A short summary of a humorous event used to make a point.
Epiphany	A sudden moment of understanding that causes a character to change or act in a certain way.
Flashback	Returning to an earlier time in the story for the purpose of making something in the present clearer.
Dialogue	Consists of the conversations characters have with one another. Dialogue has two main functions: • It tells a lot about the characters' personalities. • It moves the plot, or action, along.

Additional Terms for our Unit on Fiction:

Allusion	A reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or work of art to enrich the reading experience by adding meaning.
Dialect	A form of language that is spoken in a particular place or by a particular group of people.
Diction	Particular images or meanings created with just the right words and phrases
Foreshadowing	A suggestion of what is to come later in the work by giving hints and clues.

Additional Terms for our Unit on Drama:

Archetype	An image, character or pattern of circumstance that recurs throughout literature and thought consistently enough to be considered universal --wise grandparent, generous thief, innocent maiden.
Aside	An author directly addresses the audience but is not supposed to be heard by other actors on the stage.
Figurative language	Writers use figurative language – expressions that are not literally true – to create original descriptions. Simile: A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like or as) is used. Example: She eats like a bird. Metaphor: A term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally similar, as in " <i>a sea of troubles</i> " or " <i>All the world's a stage</i> " (<i>Shakespeare</i>).
Humor	The quality of a literary work that makes the character and/or situations seem funny, amusing, or ludicrous.
Irony	A contrast between what is expected and what actually exists.
Tragic flaw	A flaw within the main character that ultimately leads to his or her downfall.