Literature Terms

GENRE   a type or category <of literature>

PROSE   ordinary written; mainly sentences and paragraphs; two main
                   forms of prose are fiction and nonfiction

SHORT STORY   a brief work of fiction which offers a sequence of events or
                   plot

THEME   central message or purpose of the *literary work* (novel, drama or
                   poem); it reveals a message about people or life,
                   which the reader can apply to his/her own experiences

CONFLICT   a struggle between two opposing forces;
                   man verses self; man verses man; man verses nature

FICTION   made-up stories (FAKE!!)

NONFICTION   writing based on facts; about someone or something that is
                   real/true (NOT FAKE!!)

CHARACTERS   fictional work includes made-up people and animals

PLOT   a series of events; the order in which a story is written
                   or told

SETTING   a place in time, history and location, which may or may not
                   be real

NARRATOR   the speaker in fictional writing

POINT OF VIEW   the certain perspective the story or information is
                   written or told; first person or third person

FIRST PERSON   the perspective of a character in the story
                (the speaker uses *I, me, us, we, myself, our*)

THIRD PERSON   the perspective of a narrator outside the story

TRAITS   the quality that make each character (and person) unique

CHARACTERIZATION the creation and development of a character;
                the author can be direct; through dialogue or actions of
                the specific character or indirect; through the thoughts
                and observations of other characters in regards to a
                specific character

EXPOSITION   the beginning of a story (introduces characters
                 and setting)

RISING ACTION   series of events that builds up tension and suspense
                 (where the plot thickens!)

CLIMAX   point of greatest tension… the turning point of the story

FALLING ACTION   after the climax, where everything "falls into place"
                 and leads to the resolution

RESOLUTION   where the conflict is resolved (end of story)