

**The NUTS AND BOLTS of the AP Classroom**  
**A canon for AP Literature and Composition**  
**Mrs. Chyla**

**Part 1. Common Literary Terms** \* *Define the following!\**

Allegory  
Alliteration  
Allusion  
Antithesis  
Apostrophe  
Characterization  
Conflict  
Conceit  
Deus ex machina  
Fable  
Figurative Language  
Flashback  
Foreshadowing  
Hyperbole  
Imagery  
Irony (verbal, dramatic, situational)  
Metaphor  
Metonymy  
Mood  
Monologue  
Motif  
Narrator/Narration  
Onomatopoeia  
Oxymoron  
Parable  
Paradox  
Parody  
Pathos  
Personification  
Plot (exposition, climax, denouement/resolution)  
Point of View  
Pun  
Sarcasm  
Satire  
Setting  
Simile  
Soliloquy  
Structure  
Style  
Symbol

Synecdoche  
Theme  
Tone  
Understatement (meiosis, litotes)  
Voice

**Part 2. Common Poetic Terms** *\*Define the following!\**

Assonance  
Ballad  
Blank Verse  
Caesura  
Consonance  
Couplet  
Elegy  
Enjambment  
Epic  
Epigram  
Foot  
Free Verse  
Iamb/Iambic  
Lyric poetry  
Meter  
Narrative poem  
Octave  
Ode  
Prosody  
Quatrain  
Rhyme  
Rhythm  
Sestet  
Sestina  
Sonnet  
Stanza  
Tercet

**Part 3. Characterization: What helps the characters come alive:**

1. Physical description and/or the kind of person they are
2. Description by another character
3. Character's speech
4. Explanation of the character's thoughts
5. Character's actions
6. Character's responses and reactions to other characters
7. Combination of the above

*\* Define the following!\**

Protagonist/Antagonist-

Round/Flat-

Dynamic/Static-

Foil-

**Part 4. Archetypes *\*Read through; define as needed for yourself.\****

**Character:**

Hero

Young man from the provinces

Initiates

Mentors

Mentor-pupil

Father-son conflict

Hunting group of companions

Loyal retainers

Friendly beast

Civil figure with good heart

Scapegoat

Outcast

Devil figure

Creature of nightmare

Woman figure--Earth mother

    Temptress

    Platonic ideal

    Unfaithful wife

    Damsel in distress

**Symbolic:**

Light vs. darkness

Water vs. desert

Heaven vs. hell

Innate wisdom vs. educated stupidity

Haven vs. wilderness

Supernatural intervention

Magic weapon

**Situational:**

Quest journey

Task

Initiation

Journey-search for truth

Fall

Death and resurrection

Nature vs. mechanistic world

Battle between good and evil

Unhealable wound

Ritual

**Part 5. Point of View** \* *Define the following!* \*

Participant (first person)\*

(I, me, my, we, us, our)

- ◇ narrator as major character
- ◇ narrator as minor character
- ◇ innocent –eye narrator
- ◇ stream of consciousness

Nonparticipant (third person)

(he, him, her, she, they, them)

- ◇ omniscient narrator\*
- ◇ selective (limited) narrator\*
- ◇ objective narrator

Second person (participant or non participant)

(you, your, yourself)

**Part 6. Imagery** \* *Read through; define as needed for yourself.* \*

Mythological

Biblical

Historical

Colors

Nature

Animals

Positions

Buildings

Names

Vehicles  
Pictures  
Books/magazines  
Films/TV/Video

**Part 7. Tone (common descriptions)** *\*Read through; define as needed for yourself.\**

Accusing  
Amused  
Angry  
Cheery  
Compassionate  
Complimentary  
Concerned  
Condemnatory  
Confident  
Contemptuous  
Didactic  
Diffident  
Disgusted  
Disturbed  
Elated  
Elegiac  
Enthusiastic  
Exuberant  
Fearful  
Foreboding  
Furious  
Gloomy  
Hopeful  
Hopeless  
Indignant  
Irreverent  
Irritated  
Lighthearted  
Loving  
Nostalgic  
Optimistic  
Outraged  
Passionate  
Pedantic  
Proud  
Resigned  
Reverent  
Sad  
Sentimental  
Serious  
Sober  
Solemn  
Somber  
Staid  
Sympathetic

**Part 8. Themes (common)** *\*Read through; define as needed for yourself.\**

Abuse/neglect/battered women's syndrome

Alienation

Ambition

Appearance vs. reality

Betrayal

Bureaucracy

Children

Courage/cowardice

Chance/fate/luck

Cruelty/violence

Custom/tradition

Defeat/failure

Despair/discontent/disillusionment

Dreams/fantasies

Domination/suppression

Duty/allegiance/ blind faith

Escape/confinement

Ethics vs. morality/right vs. wrong

Exile/persecution

Falsity/pretense/affectation

Family/parenthood/deconstructed family

Gender evolution

Free will/will power

Games/sports

Greed

Guilt

Heaven/paradise/utopia

Home

Heart vs. reason

Initiation

Illusion/innocence

Instinct

The "ISMS" (prejudices: sexism, sizism, ageism, lookism, heterosexism, racism, able-bodied ism, classism, anti-Semitism...)

Journey

Law/justice/revenge

Education/school

Loneliness/alienation

Materialism

Media

Memory/past

Mob psychology

Music/dance

Mysterious stranger

Nature vs. mechanistic world

Persistence/perseverance

Patriotism

Poverty/class

Prophecy

Redemption/salvation  
Repentance  
Resistance/rebellion  
Revenge/retribution  
Ritual/ceremony  
Scapegoat/victim/suicide  
Search for self  
Time  
War  
(Thematic statement = elevated diction + comment on the book)

**Part 9. Allusion** *\*Read through; define as needed for yourself.\**

- a. personal
- b. biblical
- c. mythological
- d. historical
- e. literary to literary

**Part 10. Diction** *\* Define the following!\**

- a. monosyllabic/polysyllabic
- b. colloquial/informal/formal/old fashioned/slang
- c. denotative/connotative
- d. concrete/ abstract
- e. euphonious/cacophonous
- f. jargon/dialect

**Part 11. Syntax** *\* Define the following!\**

- a. sentence length
- b. sentence pattern
  - ◇ declarative/imperative/exclamatory/interrogative
  - ◇ simple/compound/complex/compound complex
  - ◇ loose/periodic
  - ◇ balanced
  - ◇ order: natural, inverted, split
  - ◇ juxtaposition
  - ◇ parallel structure
  - ◇ repetition
  - ◇ rhetorical questioning
- c. arrangement of ideas in a sentence
- d. arrangement of ideas in a paragraph

**Part 12. Treatment of Subject Matter** *\*Define the following!\**

- a. subjectivity
- b. objectivity
- c. support of main idea
  - opinion, experiences, observation, reading, expert witness, statistical data

**Part 13. Analyzing Tragedy and Tragic Fiction** *\*Read through; define as needed.\**

*Aristotelian Theory*

Unity of action

Catharsis

Tragedy (hamartia/hubris)

-peripeteia

-anagnorisis

Scene of suffering

Tragic hero

**Part 14. Comedic Ladder** *\*Read through; define as needed for yourself.\**

**Comedy of ideas**

- ◇ Characters argue about ideas like: politics, religion, sex, marriage
- ◇ Use their wit, their clever language to mock their opponent in an argument
- ◇ Subtle way to satirize people and institutions like political parties, governments, churches, war, marriage

**Comedy of manners**

- ◇ Amorous intrigues among the upper classes
- ◇ Focus is on witty language, clever speech; insults and putdowns are traded between characters
- ◇ Society is often made up of cliques that are exclusive with certain groups as the in crowd, other groups, the would-be-wits, desiring to be part of the witty crowd, and some, the witless on the outside

**Farce**

- ◇ Plot is full of coincidences, mistimings, mistaken identities
- ◇ Characters are puppets of fate – they are twins, born to the wrong class, unable to marry, too poor, too rich
- ◇ Loss of identity because of birth or fate or accident
- ◇ Sometimes they are twins separated unaware of their double

**Low Comedy**

- ◇ Dirty jokes, dirty gestures, sex and elimination



- ◇ Exaggeration or understatement are the extremes of the humor with a focus on the physical i.e. long noses, cross eyes, humped back and deformities
- ◇ Slapstick, pratfalls, loud noises, physical mishaps, collisions

*Comedy* is:

Based on irony

Awareness of irony is an intellectual, not emotional process

Lifts us out of emotional responses

Makes us laugh

Can make us feel superior to characters

Can sense our own rigidity which arouses laughter