

Glossary

Terms in the glossary are defined as they relate to the content of this document. It is important to note that some terms may have several definitions or explanations.

Sources used in the formulation of definitions for this glossary include *A Dictionary of Reading and Related Terms*, edited by Theodore L. Harris and Richard E. Hodges (Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 1981); *The Literacy Dictionary: The Vocabulary of Reading and Writing*, edited by Theodore L. Harris and Richard E. Hodges (Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 1995); *NTC's Dictionary of Literary Terms*, by Kathleen Morner and Ralph Rausch (Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook, 1991); and the Web site <http://www.sourcewatch.org>.

affix	A word element such as a prefix or suffix that functions only when it is attached to a base word (e.g., <i>re-</i> in <i>rename</i> and the <i>-ing</i> in <i>naming</i>).
alliteration	The repetition of the initial sounds or stressed syllables in neighboring words.
allusion	A brief reference to a historical, mythological, or literary person, place, thing, or event.
antonym	A word meaning the opposite of another word.
argument	The logical, systematic presentation of reasoning and supporting evidence that attempts to prove a statement or position.
audience	The specific person or group for whom a piece of writing, a spoken message, or a visual representation is intended.
author's craft	The specific techniques that an author chooses to relay an intended message (e.g., figurative language, tone , flashback , imagery , irony , word choice , and dialogue).
base word	A word to which affixes have been added to create related words (e.g., <i>group</i> in <i>regroup</i> or <i>grouping</i>).
bandwagon	See propaganda .
bias	A personal and largely unreasoned judgment either for or against a particular person, position, or thing; a prejudice.
card stacking	See propaganda .

central idea	The central thought or meaning. See thesis .
character	A figure in a literary work that either is a human being or possesses human qualities and is portrayed in human terms. There are four basic types of characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dynamic—one who changes in a significant way during the course of the story • static—one who remains the same throughout the story • round—one who is presented in a complex, three-dimensional portrait (Generally, major characters in works of fiction are presented as fully developed, or rounded personalities.) • flat—one who is presented as having a single trait
characterization	The way in which an author presents a character. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct characterization—the author literally tells what a character is like. This may be done by the narrator, another character, or by the character himself. • indirect characterization—the reader must infer what the character is like through the character’s thoughts, actions, words, and interactions with other characters, including other characters’ reactions.
compound word	A combination of two or more words, which may be hyphenated (<i>merry-go-round</i>), written as separate words (<i>school bus</i>), or written as a single word (<i>flowerpot</i>).
concepts about print	The concepts that students need to learn about the conventions and characteristics of written language, such as directional movement, one-to-one matching of spoken and printed words, the concept of a letter and a word, book conventions (e.g., the book’s title, the name of the author), and the proper way to hold and open a book.
conflict	A struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character’s emotions (internal conflict).
connotation	The implicit, rather than explicit, meaning of a word, consisting of the suggestions, associations, and emotional overtones attached to a word such as <i>cheap</i> and <i>inexpensive</i> . See denotation .

consonant blends	Two or more consonant letters that often appear together in words and represent sounds that are smoothly joined although each of the sounds can be heard (e.g., <i>bl, cl, tr, str</i>).
consonant digraphs	Two consonant letters that appear together and represent a single sound that is different from either letter (e.g., <i>th, sh</i>).
context clues	The words or sentences that help a reader comprehend the meaning of an unfamiliar portion of text.
creative dramatics	Informal dramatization using simple staging and few, if any, set properties and costumes.
denotation	The most specific or literal meaning of a word. See connotation .
dialogue	The conversation between characters in a literary work.
direct characterization	See characterization .
drama	A literary work written in dialogue to be performed before an audience by actors on a stage.
dynamic character	See character .
edit	To correct the conventions of writing—such as spelling, punctuation, and capitalization— in order to prepare written material for presentation or publication.
environmental print	Text and other graphic symbols that are part of the physical environment such as street signs, billboards, television commercials, or store signs.
etymology	The origin and development of a word and its meaning.
euphemism	The substitution of a mild and pleasant expression for a harsh and blunt one (e.g., <i>to pass away</i> for <i>to die</i>).
expository text	Text written to explain or convey information about a specific topic.
extended metaphor	See metaphor .
fable	A brief story told in poetry or prose that contains a moral or a practical lesson about life.
fiction	An imaginative literary work representing inventive rather than actual persons, places, or events.

first person point of view	See point of view .
flashback	The technique of disrupting the chronological flow of a narrative by interjecting events that have occurred at an earlier time.
flat character	See character .
fluency	The accuracy, phrasing, intonation, and expression with which an individual speaks, writes, or reads a particular language.
folktale	A story that has no known author and was originally passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth. Unlike myths , which are about gods and heroes, folktales are usually about ordinary people or animals that act like people.
foreshadowing	The use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest future action.
glittering generalities	See propaganda .
graphic organizer	A visual representation of information such as a map, web, chart, or diagram.
graphic features	Sources of information included in texts, such as charts, graphs, pictures, or graphic organizers that assist in comprehension.
high-frequency words	Words that appear many more times than most other words in spoken or written language. These words may also include words familiar to a child such as a family member's name, the name of a pet, or a favorite activity or place.
homonym	Words that are spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings (e.g., <i>bear</i> , the noun, meaning an animal and <i>bear</i> , the verb, meaning "to support").
hyperbole	Overstatement; the figure of speech that is a conscious exaggeration for the purpose of making a point (e.g., <i>the backpack weighs a ton.</i>)
idiom	Words used in a special way that may be different from their literal meaning (e.g., <i>it's raining cats and dogs</i> does not mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky, but that it is raining heavily.)

imagery	Language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind.
indirect characterization	See characterization .
inference	The act or process of drawing a conclusion based on what one already knows either from prior knowledge, observations, or evidence found in the text. When making an inference, ideas and facts are implied or suggested rather than stated outright.
inflectional endings	Suffixes that change either the case and number of a noun, the tense and number of a verb, or the degree of an adjective and an adverb.
intonation	The distinctive pattern in the pitch of the voice that contributes to the meaning of a spoken phrase or sentence (e.g., <i>Cut it out!</i> is a command and <i>Cut it out?</i> is a question.)
irony	The discrepancy between what one says and what one means, what a character believes and what a reader knows, or what occurs and what one expects to occur in a text. Some common types of irony include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verbal irony—a contrast between what is said or written and what is actually meant. • situational irony—when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. • dramatic irony—when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know.
legend	A traditional, historical tale that is handed down from one generation to the next, first orally and later in written form.
limited omniscient point of view	See point of view .
literary model	The work of an accomplished author that one uses as a model for one's own writing.
main idea	The major topic of a passage or work that may be stated directly or inferred. See theme .
metaphor	A device of figurative language that compares two unlike objects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended metaphor—a metaphor that is carried throughout the text.

monologue	A long speech by a character in a play, spoken either to others or as if the character is alone.
motive	A character's conscious or unconscious reason for behaving in a particular way.
multiple-meaning words	Words that have more than one meaning and can be used as more than one part of speech.
myth	A traditional story of anonymous origin that deals with gods, heroes, or supernatural events. Myths explain a belief, custom, or force of nature.
name calling	See propaganda .
nonfiction	Writing that is based on actual persons, places, things, or events.
nonprint sources	Sources of information that are not in written form (e.g., pictures and photographs, television and radio productions, the Internet, films, movies, videotapes, and live performances).
onomatopoeia	The formation and use of words to imitate sounds (e.g., <i>rattle, murmur, crash, bog, buzz, boink, and grr</i>).
omniscient point of view	See point of view .
onset	The first part of a syllable or the consonants that precede the first vowel in a word. In the word "flat," /fl/ is the onset, and /at/ is the rime . In the word "greed," /gr/ is the onset, and /eed/ is the rime . See rime .
oxymoron	A figure of speech that places two contradictory words together for a special effect (e.g.; <i>jumbo shrimp, old news</i>).
paradox	A contradictory statement that has an element of truth (e.g., One must be cruel to be kind).
parody	A literary work written for comic effect or ridicule.
parallelism	The use of a series of words, phrases, or sentences that have similar grammatical structures.
personification	The figurative device in which animals, objects, or abstractions are represented as being human or as having human attributes.
plagiarism	Using someone's writing or ideas as if they were your own.

plain folk	See propaganda .
plot	The deliberate sequence of events or actions that presents and resolves a conflict in a literary work.
point of view	<p>The perspective or vantage point from which a literary work is told.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first person point of view—a story told by a character using the pronoun “I” or sometimes “we.” • second person point of view—rarely used except in interactive fiction • omniscient point of view—a third-person narrator functioning as an all-seeing, all-hearing, all-knowing speaker who reads the thoughts and feelings of any and all characters. • limited omniscient point of view—a story told by a third-person narrator whose omniscience is limited, or restricted, to a single character.
primary source	An original source—such as a work of literature, a historical manuscript, material in archival collections, or an interview—that is used as part of research.
print styles	Ways that symbols, letters, or words may be presented in a text (e.g. bold, italics, etc.).
propaganda techniques	<p>An extreme form of persuasion intended to prejudice and incite the reader or listener to action either for or against a particular cause or position, usually by means of a one-sided argument or an appeal to the emotions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bandwagon—an appeal to others to join the crowd in order to be on the winning side (e.g., <i>Four out of five doctors recommend...</i>). • card stacking—presenting only the information that is positive to an idea or proposal and omitting information that is contrary to that idea. • glittering generality—emotionally appealing words that are applied to a product or idea, but that present no concrete argument or analysis (e.g., a person who is asked to do something “in defense of democracy” is more likely to agree to do that something). • name calling—the use of derogatory language or words that carry a negative connotation (e.g., calling a policeman a pig). • plain folks—attempting to convince the public that one’s views reflect those of the common person (e.g., using the accent or dialect of a specific audience).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • testimonial—the use of a quotation or endorsement, in or out of context, that attempts to connect a famous or respectable person with a product or item (e.g., Tiger Woods, a famous golfer, endorsing a particular kind of cereal promoting the product as part of a balanced breakfast). • transfer—projecting positive or negative qualities of a person, entity, object, or value to another to make the second more acceptable or to discredit it (e.g., using an American flag as a backdrop for a political event implies that the event is patriotic and good for the United States).
refrain	A passage repeated at regular intervals, usually in a poem or song.
repetition	The recurrence of sounds, words, phrases, lines, or stanzas used for emphasis.
revise	Reworking a written draft to improve it by adding or taking out information, combining and reordering words, sentences, or paragraphs, and/or improving word choice.
rhyming words	Words that have identical or very similar final sounds.
rhyme scheme	The pattern in rhyme or verse which represents identical or highly familiar final sounds in lines of verse (e.g., <i>aabba</i> in a limerick).
rime	The second part of a syllable or the vowel and any consonants that follow. In the word “grand,” /and/ is the rime, which follows the onset /gr/. In the word “slight,” /ight/ is the rime, which follows the onset /sl/. See onset .
root	The element of a word that is the basis of its meaning.
round character	See character .
secondary source	Any source other than a primary source that is used in researching a particular subject.
self-correct	The correction of an error or miscue in reading without prompting.

sentence types	<p>There are a variety of sentence types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple sentence—contains only one subject and one predicate (e.g. <i>John likes pizza</i>). The subject or the predicate may be compound (e.g. the compound subject <i>John and Luis</i> in the sentence <i>John and Luis like pizza</i>.) • compound sentence—two or more simple sentences joined together (e.g. <i>My friend gave me a book and I read it from beginning to end</i>.) • complex sentence—a sentence that contains one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses (e.g. <i>We left before you came to school</i>. <i>We left</i> is the main clause and <i>before you came to school</i> is the subordinate clause.) • compound-complex sentence—two or more simple sentences combined with a subordinate clause (e.g. <i>Before I went on vacation, my friend gave me a book and I read it</i>.)
setting	The time and place where the action in a literary work occurs.
sight words	Words that are intended to be learned visually.
simile	A device of figurative language that is a stated comparison between two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.”
stage directions	Directions in a play that explain how a character should look, speak, move, or behave.
Standard American English	The version of the English language that is regarded as the model in America for writers and speakers.
stanza	A group of lines forming a unit in a poem or song, similar to a paragraph in prose.
static character	See character .
symbolism	The author’s use of an object, person, place, or event that has both a meaning in itself and stands for something larger than itself.
synonym	A word whose meaning is the same or almost the same as that of another word.
tall tale	An exaggerated story that is obviously untrue but is told as though it should be believed.
testimonials	See propaganda .

theme	The major idea of an entire work of literature. A theme may be stated or implied. See main idea .
thesis	The central thought or meaning. See central idea .
tone	The writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details.
transfer	See propaganda .
visual aid	A teaching device that aids in comprehension (e.g., pictures, models, charts, videotapes).
voice	The distinctive style or manner of expression used in writing.
Web log	A website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in reverse chronological order.
word choice	The effective use of words to enhance style, tone, or clarity in writing or speaking.
Works Cited	A formal listing, alphabetized by author's last name, giving full publication information for all primary and secondary sources used in a particular document.