

Literary Terms

PLOT- sequence of events in a story

CONFLICT- a problem or struggle between opposing forces

PARTS OF A PLOT:

EXPOSITION- characters are introduced and setting is described

RISING ACTION- conflict unfolds and problems arise

CLIMAX- the action reaches a peak, and outcome of conflict is decided

FALLING ACTION (RESOLUTION)- occurs at the end of the story when loose ends are tied up

DENOUEMENT- any event occurring after the resolution

CHARACTERS- are people, animals, or things in a story

TRAITS- parts of their personality

MOTIVES- the reasons they act the way they do

DYNAMIC- the character changes throughout the story

STATIC- the character remains the same or does not change throughout the story

SETTING- the time and place of a story

THEME- the meaning, moral or main message of a story

FORESHADOWING- clues that suggest or predict what will happen later in the story

MOOD- feeling created in the reader by the literary piece

TONE- the attitude of the writer towards the subject they are writing about

ALLITERATION- repetition of an initial consonant sound.
Example: “ Sally sold seashells down by the seashore.”

SIMILE- comparison using like or as

METAPHOR- comparison that does not use like or as

ONOMOTOPOEIA- words that imitate sounds ex. Crash, boom, bang

PERSONIFICATION- giving something that is non-human, human qualities ex. The trees waved as I walked by.

ALLUSION- a reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work or work of art.

SYMBOL- anything that represents something else

PROTAGONIST- main character in a literary piece

ANTAGONIST- character or force that is in conflict with the main character

FIRST PERSON- point of view in which the character tells the story, so the reader knows only how that character feels and what they see

THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT- point of view in which the voice of someone outside of the story tells it, the reader is able to tell what any character thinks or feels

THIRD PERSON LIMITED- point of view in which the voice adheres closely to one characters perspective.

