

Name:

English 7 Glossary

Over the course of the school year, we will use the words below in our discussion of literature and writing. We will use them when we talk about our own work and the work of other writers.

Terms we use when discussing literature:

Term	Definition
Author's message	The intent of the writer; what he/she is trying to say or what point the writer is trying to make; possibly related to the moral of the story, if it has one.
Author's purpose	Why the author wrote what he/she did; such as to entertain, instruct, persuade, or describe.
Author's style	The general characteristics of a work that distinguish it from another author's work; often includes the author's use of language.
Character	A person portrayed in an artistic piece, such as a drama or novel
Characterization	How an author reveals what characters are like by giving details on their appearance, what they say, or what they do.
Character types	<p>Protagonist characters are central in a story, and are often referred to as the story's main character. The protagonist may not always be admired by others in the story.</p> <p>Antagonist characters represent the opposition against which the protagonist must face.</p> <p>Major or central characters are important to the development of the story.</p> <p>Minor characters do not have a large role in the story but complement the major characters.</p> <p>Dynamic characters change over time.</p> <p>Static characters do not change over time.</p> <p>Round characters are conflicted and are contradictory.</p> <p>Flat characters have one type of characteristic and are the opposite of dynamic.</p>
Conflict	<p>The struggle between opposing forces. It is problem and the cause of action.</p> <p>External conflict: A character struggles with a problem outside of himself, like another character, nature, or society.</p> <p>Internal Conflict: A character struggles with a problem inside his/her head.</p>
Dialect	The accent of people in a particular region or group. Writers use these to make characters seem more realistic and authentic.

Dialogue	When two or more characters are having a conversation set off with quotes.
Fiction	Texts that are not true stories.
Genre	A category used to classify literary works, usually by form, technique, or content. Examples: poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction.
Figurative Language	It is characterized by figures of speech—language that compares, exaggerates, or means something other than what it first appears to mean. The four most common are simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole.
Flashback	When an author gives clues about what happened in the past.
Foreshadowing	When an author gives clues about what will happen in the future.
Metaphor	A direct comparison between two things which does not use “like” or “as.” Example: “He is a lion in battle” or “Drowning in money”
Mood	The feeling the reader gets from a work of literature. Another way to describe mood is atmosphere.
Narrative	Story or account of events, experiences, etc., whether true or fictitious.
Narrator	The person who tells the story. The narrator may be part of the story or they may not be.
Personification	A figure of speech in which human qualities are given to nonhuman things like trees, night, or horses. Example: The moon peeked its head over the mountain.
Plot	<p>The sequence of events or actions in a novel, play, short story, or narrative poem. The elements of plot include:</p> <p>Exposition: the introduction to a piece of literature where the author introduces character and setting.</p> <p>Rising Action: This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed (events between the introduction and climax).</p> <p>Climax: This is the highest point of interest and tension. It is the turning point of the story. The reader wonders what will happen next; will the conflict be resolved or not?</p> <p>Falling Action: The events and complications begin to resolve themselves.</p> <p>Resolution: The end of story.</p>

Points of View	The perspective or vantage point from which a literary work is told, or the way in which an author reveals characters, actions, and ideas. Depending on the topic, purpose, and audience, writers may rely on the first-person point of view (<i>I, we</i>), the second-person (<i>you, your</i>), or the third-person (<i>he, she, it, they</i>).
Setting	The location or time period in which the action of a novel, play, film, etc., takes place.
Simile	A figure of speech in which two essentially unlike things are compared, often in a phrase introduced by the word “like” or “as.”
Rhyme	The repetition of sounds in two or more words or phrases that appear close to each other in a poem. <i>End rhyme</i> occurs at the end of lines. <i>A rhyme scheme</i> is the pattern of end rhymes.
Rhythm	The regular recurrence and speed of sound and stresses in a poem.
Sensory Images	Descriptions or vivid details that appeal to your five senses (hearing, seeing, smelling, touching, and tasting). Example: The smell of blueberry waffles wafted through the house.
Symbolism	When one thing stands for or represents another thing an object that represents a big idea.
Theme	The central meaning of a literary work.
Tone	The writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the author’s choice of words and detail. Examples: serious, humorous, sarcastic

Terms we use when discussing writing:

Term	Definition
Analyze	To examine something methodically.
Argument	An attempt to try to convince someone that something is true and why.
Audience	The specified or clearly implied person(s) to whom the writer addresses his/her work or correspondence.
Bias	personal slant, preference, judgment, or prejudice

Central idea	The most important thoughts of a paragraph or larger section of the text. These ideas determine what the text is mostly about.
Claims in text	Arguable statements found in a piece of writing.
Connotative Meaning	Connotations suggest something beyond the basic meaning of the phrase in which they are used. It refers to the feel or overtone that a concept might have. For example, a possible connotation of home is a “place of warmth or affection.”
Compare	To discuss similarities.
Contrast	To discuss differences.
Descriptive text	A text that lists the characteristics of something. Writing that has lots of details and descriptions that creates a vivid picture in your mind.
Essay	A piece of writing which has an introduction, body and conclusion. Introduction: First paragraph in a piece of writing that explains what the piece will be about. It prepares the reader for what they will read. Body: These are the middle paragraphs that explain the writer’s ideas and gives examples to support the writer’s opinions. Conclusion: This is the last paragraph that sums up the ideas of the essay and states any new conclusion about the topic.
Expository text	Writing that explains, informs, or instructs the reader on how to do something.
Informational text	A text that is organized by topic and supporting details. Informational texts may have boldface headings, graphics, illustrations, and captions that signal importance in the text.
Infer	A conclusion made from facts in the writing.
Interpret	To give or provide the meaning of; to explain.
Literary text	A text that tells a story to make a point, express a personal opinion, or provide an enjoyable experience. It includes a wide range of different texts. Literary text is organized by the structure of a story, poem, or drama.
Main Idea	The most important or central thought of a paragraph or larger section of text, which tells the reader what the text is about.
Main idea vs. theme	The phrase “main idea” is used with informational text; the term “theme” or “message” is used with literary text.

Nonfiction	Texts that are based on fact; literary works that are not fiction. Examples: informational text, content area text, practical “how-to” text, biography, autobiography
Opinion	Judgment or belief not founded on certainty or proof; the prevailing or popular feeling or view (public opinion); an evaluation, impression, or estimation of the value or worth of a person or thing.
Paragraph	A group of sentences all related to the same idea. A paragraph contains the following: Topic Sentence: A sentence that comes at the start of a paragraph that states the main idea of the paragraph. Example Sentences: Sentences that explain or prove the topic sentence of the paragraph. Concluding Sentence: A sentence that comes at the end of a paragraph that sums up the paragraph.
Paraphrase	To put something in your words.
Persuasive Writing	A piece of writing that tries to convince the reader of something.
Sentence	A group of words that begins with a capital letter, expresses a complete thought and has a subject, a predicate, and an end mark. Fragment: A group of words that IS NOT a sentence because it is missing a subject, a verb, or a does not express a complete thought. Run-on: Two or more sentences written incorrectly as one sentence. A run-on needs to be split up and often needs more punctuation.
Summary	The sequence of events, the plot or main points of a text.
Text feature	Detail that the author wants to get to the reader. A few examples of text features consist of the following: white space, underline, italics, boldface, boxes, size, capitalization, title, font type and size, underscoring, layout, color, illustrations, graphs, charts or headings.
Textual evidence	Evidence from one or more texts used to support an argument or position, and is derived from reading and drawing information from other text.
Text-to-self	To relate to something in text that has happen to you; connecting ideas within a text to our beliefs or experiences.
Text-to-text	To relate something in text to another text.
Text-to-world	To relate something in text to things that happen in the community, environment, world or history.

<p>Writing process</p>	<p>A series of overlapping and recursive processes (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing) a writer often moves among when developing a piece of writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. prewriting – to formulate and organize ideas in preparation for writing b. drafting – to draw the preliminary sketch, version, plan, or initial composition of the final product c. revising – to review in order to correct or improve d. editing – to make revisions to the draft version of the final product
<p>Voice</p>	<p>Written or spoken expression, as of feeling, opinion, etc.; in rhetoric and literary studies, the distinctive style or manner of expression of an author or narrator</p>