

# Literary Terms

Enrichment  
for  
Third  
Grade

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# Literature Genres

- Genre - a type of story
- folktale - a story told from generation to generation by a culture to explain common problems, "The Three Little Pigs"
- autobiography - writing the story of your own life



# Non-Fiction Elements

- Almanac - an annual (yearly) publication of lists, tables, tides, and events that happen in ONLY that year
- bibliography - a place to write the sources in which you found information for a research report
- index - a list of topics in ABC order, and pages where found in that book

# Glossary of Literary Terms

antagonist: The bad person in a story; opposes the protagonist.

alliteration: repeating the same letter sound — “Sally sells seashells by the seashore.”

assonance: repeated vowel sounds: He plays during days in May.

bias: preference about a topic based on your opinion

character: A person portrayed in a novel, short story, or play. Characters can be animals or objects, also, but those are almost always personified.

characterization: The way the author describes a character. Direct characterization involves the author telling you what a character is like; indirect characterization is done through dialogue or actions, and is considered the best form of characterization.

chronological order: When a story is told in the order that the events actually happened.

climax: The point of highest action and suspense in a story.

# Literary Terms

- conflict: The problem in the story. usually, the protagonist struggles against 1. nature 2. him/herself or 3. another character (the antagonist) or 4. against society.

connotation: The meaning we give a word.

consonance - repeated consonant sounds in the end syllables: Stop, Drop, Plop!

denotation: The dictionary definition of a word.

dialogue: Words spoken by a character, offset with quotation marks.

fiction: A story that is not true.



# Literary Terms

- figurative language: Words that mean more than their literal meaning. For example, "It's raining cats and dogs." Literally, it is not raining cats and dogs.

flashback: When the action of a story is interrupted by a scene from the past. The scene from the past is the flashback.

foreshadowing: Hints in a story of what is going to happen to the plot or a character.

imagery: Words the author uses to put a picture in the reader's mind.

# Literary Terms

- irony: When the opposite of what you expect happens, or when you say the opposite of what you mean, usually for humorous effect (as opposed to sarcasm).

literal language: When words mean exactly what they say.

metaphor: Saying something is something else for comparison. *He was a monster.* Compare with **simile**.

The grass IS a sea of green (metaphor). The grass is as calm as the sea( simile)

mood: The way the reader feels when reading a story.

moral: The lesson being taught by the story.

# Literary Terms

- narrator: The person telling the story. May or may not be a character in the story. Be sure to separate the author from the narrator. They usually aren't the same person.

onomatopoeia: Words imitating sounds, crash, bang, plop!.

oxymoron: a short phrase combining two terms that are normally contradicting or opposite (jumbo shrimp)

personification: Attaching human characteristics to something that is not human.

plot: Sequence of events in a story where each event causes the next event to happen. Otherwise, you just have a story. Example: The king died, and then the queen died. That's a story. The king died and then the queen died of grief. That's a plot.



# Literary Terms

- point of view: The angle from which a story is told.

first-person: The narrator is a character in the story and refers to himself as “I.”

second person: The reader is the main character. Narrator uses the pronoun “you” when referring to the main character.

third person: Neither the reader nor the narrator is the main character. Narrator uses the pronoun “he” or “she” when referring to the main character.

third-person omniscient: The narrator can tell what is going on in the minds of all the characters.

third-person limited: The narrator can tell what is going on in one or two of the characters,  
usually the main character.

- prose: Writing that isn't poetry.

protagonist: The good person in a story. Usually the central character.

sarcasm: Saying the opposite of what you mean to pretend to praise someone. Designed to hurt.

satire: Making fun of something with humor and wit for the purpose of improving it. Satire may be offensive, but generally, when done in the right spirit, the people it makes fun of should not be offended. But they might be.

setting: Where and when the story takes place.

# Literary Terms

- simile: A comparison using like or as. Hungry as a bear. Compare to metaphor.

stereotype: Preconceived idea of what a person or thing is like.

symbol: Something representing something else.

theme: The main idea of a story. A theme must be written as a complete sentence. “Friendship” is an idea, but “Friends stick together” is a theme.

tone: The author’s attitude towards the characters or the story. The author may not like the characters, and may make fun of them in a subtle way. Tone is different from mood because it describes how the author feels about the characters, whereas mood describes how the reader feels when reading the story.



# Poetry

## **Allegory**

A symbolic narrative in which the surface details imply a secondary meaning. Allegory often takes the form of a story in which the characters represent moral qualities. The most famous example in English is John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, in which the name of the central character, Pilgrim, epitomizes the book's allegorical nature. Kay Boyle's story "Astronomer's Wife" and Christina Rossetti's poem "Up-Hill" both contain allegorical elements. Ballad

## **Ballad**

A [narrative poem](#) written in four-line [stanzas](#), characterized by swift action and narrated in a direct style. The Anonymous medieval ballad, "Barbara Allan," exemplifies the genre.

## **Blank verse**

A line of poetry or prose in unrhymed [iambic pentameter](#). Shakespeare's sonnets, Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*, and Robert Frost's meditative poems such as "Birches" include many lines of blank verse. Here are the opening blank verse lines of "Birches": When I see birches bend to left and right / Across the lines of straighter darker trees, / I like to think some boy's been swinging them.

## **Closed form**

A type of form or structure in poetry characterized by regularity and consistency in such elements as rhyme, line length, and [metrical pattern](#). Frost's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" provides one of many examples. A single [stanza](#) illustrates some of the features of closed form:

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though.  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

- **Couplet**

A pair of rhymed lines that may or may not constitute a separate [stanza](#) in a poem. Shakespeare's sonnets end in rhymed couplets, as in "For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings / That then I scorn to change my state with kings."

**Free verse**

Poetry without a regular pattern of [meter](#) or rhyme. The verse is "free" in not being bound by earlier poetic conventions requiring poems to adhere to an explicit and identifiable meter and rhyme scheme in a form such as the sonnet or ballad. Modern and contemporary poets of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries often employ free verse. Williams's "This Is Just to Say" is one of many examples.

**Hyperbole**

A figure of speech involving exaggeration. John Donne uses hyperbole in his poem: "Song: Go and Catch a Falling Star."

**Limerick** -A **limerick** is a kind of a witty, humorous, or nonsense five line [poem](#), [rhyme scheme](#) (AABBA),

**Meter**

The measured pattern of rhythmic accents in poems. See [Foot](#) and [Iamb](#).

**Personification**

The endowment of inanimate objects or abstract concepts with animate or living qualities. An example: "The yellow leaves flaunted their color gaily in the breeze." Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud" includes personification.

**Stanza**

# Other Language

- implied - to express indirectly (infer)
- chronological order - in sequence of years
- author conveys - to make an idea known
- literary - about books and writing
- phrase exemplifies - words stand for



# Base or Root Words

- produce
- reduce
- introduce
- ROOT WORD IS "DUCE" comes from Latin and means to lead, bring, or take

