

# LITERARY TERMS PROJECT

AMERICAN LITERATURE  
FALL SEMESTER 2011

This is graded as the Semester Project  
Failure to do this project will have a serious  
adverse effect on the final grade in this class.

# Assignment Due Date

Monday December 17, and  
Tuesday October 18, 2011

Work will not be accepted late  
If you are absent, the work must still be  
turned in. On time. No Excuses! Work  
may be turned in early.

Work sent by E-mail will NOT be accepted  
without prior permission.

# **ASSIGNMENT:**

Create a PowerPoint  
or

Poster presentation  
of

Twenty literary techniques.

# PROVIDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FOR ALL TWENTY LITERARY TECHNIQUES

- 1.) Define the Literary Term
- 2.) An example from a piece of literature, any literary media, movies, television, magazines etc.
- 3.) Create an original sample of your own complete with enough context to prove understanding of the technique.

Clearly establish the character and story situation for each example in the presentation. Assume the viewer has never seen, nor read the story or heard of the characters involved. This requires extra contextual information for clarity. This assignment does not require examples be from only American Literature.

If you are unclear about an example, see Mr. Fowler before the assignment is due.

# Work identification:

On the back of the poster or on the first slide the following information must appear. Without this information, no credit will be earned.

# Neatly legibly Printed

Title: Literary Terms Project

Student Full Name

Class Period

Date of Assignment

# POSTER MAKERS

Limit the poster to three literary techniques and the remaining terms are to be presented on typed paper.

Follow the format for the remaining seventeen terms to the right.

- **Term:**
- Skip Line
- **Definition:**
- Skip line
- **Example from Literature – Media:**
- Skip Line
- **Original Example:**
- Skip Line then begin the next term



# POWERPOINT MAKERS

## Less is More

The purpose of the PowerPoint is to communicate, not to create cool effects.

Backgrounds may be one color

All non-title fonts are black.

Do not use more than two pictures per slide.

No low quality images that are muddled or blurry.

The purpose is clarity, not to create art.

Transitions and animation should be smooth and not just for effect.

# TEXT GUIDELINES

Generally no more than 16 lines a slide

Avoid long sentences

Larger font indicates more important information

Font size generally ranges from 24 to 48 point

Be sure text contrasts with background Black and White

Avoid fancy fonts – they can be hard to read and will lead to a poor grade

CAPITAL letters can be are hard to read

Avoid abbreviations

Limit punctuation marks

SAMPLE  
LITERARY TERM

THEME

# DEFINITION : THEME

A common thread or repeated idea that is incorporated throughout a literary work. A theme is a thought or idea the author presents to the reader that may be deep, difficult to understand, or even moralistic. Generally theme is extracted as the reader explores a work. The author utilizes the characters, plot, and other literary devices to assist the reader in this endeavor.

## MEDIA EXAMPLE: FORREST GUMP

- Fate as Theme

- Fate is a major theme in Forrest Gump. The feather that begins the film is symbolic of fate and destiny.
- Tom Hanks interpreted the feather as: "Our destiny is only defined by how we deal with the chance elements to our life and that's kind of the embodiment of the feather as it comes in. Here is this thing that can land anywhere and that it lands at your feet. It has theological implications that are really huge."

# DESTINY IN FORREST GUMP

Destiny is spoken of several times in the film.

- Lt. Dan claims he had a destiny to die on the battlefield, like his forefathers – that fate has preordained his destiny.
- Momma said that there is no destiny, that life is like a box of chocolates, it is whatever turns up.
- At Jenny's grave Forrest considers that maybe life is both, a combination of fate / destiny and plain chance.

# ORIGINAL THEME EXAMPLE

- Sci-Fi Story
  - Richard Corral: The Story of a Man Lost on Mars

## THEME:

Humans need friendship and good relationships with others. When Corral is lost and alone, he is desolate and miserable. Deprived of human company, he finds comfort and companionship with two dogs he rescues from the shipwreck. When Corral rescues a being from another star system this creature is so grateful that he wants to be Corral's slave. However, Corral prefers him to be a friend. Corral teaches him to speak English and share his religious beliefs. Frank, as Corral calls him, becomes his faithful companion and friend.

# Group One Terms

1. Alliteration
2. Analogy
3. Argument
4. Climax
5. Catharsis
6. Epiphany
7. Exposition
8. Extended Metaphor
9. Foreshadowing
10. Hubris
11. Juxtaposition
12. Onomatopoeia
13. Parallelism
14. POV - *Third Person All Forms*
15. Pun
16. Romantic Irony
17. Satire
18. Simile
19. Symbol
20. Tragic Irony



# Group Two Terms

1. Allegory
2. Anachronism
3. Antagonist
4. Aphorism
5. Consonance
6. Cosmic irony
7. Dead Metaphor
8. Diction
9. Dramatic Irony
10. Epithet
11. Euphemism
12. Flashback
13. Hyperbole
14. Metaphor
15. Metonymy
16. Malapropism
17. Protagonist
18. Stream of Consciousness
19. Understatement
20. Voice

# Group Three Terms

1. Allusion
2. Anthropomorphism
3. Ambiguity
4. Aside
5. Assonance
6. Connotation
7. Denotation
8. Foil
9. Mixed Metaphor
10. Motif
11. Personification
12. Paradox
13. Prose
14. Rhythm and Rhyme
15. Situational Irony
16. Speaker
17. Synecdoche
18. Tone
19. Verbal Irony
20. Verisimilitude

The final slides are  
samples from  
unsuccessful student  
presentations – What  
is wrong with these  
slides?

# Quote about Author

According to a source on the Internet,

“Here lie the ashes of Dorothy Parker (1893 - 1967) humorist, writer, critic. Defender of human and civil rights. For her epitaph she suggested, 'Excuse my dust'. This memorial garden is dedicated to her noble spirit which celebrated the oneness of humankind and to the bonds of everlasting friendship between black and Jewish people. Dedicated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. October 28, 1988.”

This slide is poorly constructed, the font and background colors do not contrast rendering the page almost impossible to read.

# Poetic Beginnings

- ❖ **Dickinson's father introduced her to a young man from his law office named Benjamin Franklin Newton. Newton had joined the law office in 1847 when Dickinson was away at school. He was a frequent visitor to the Dickinson house, Emily and Benjamin began spending a great deal of time together. They took long walks, admired the natural surroundings discussing and debating literature. Dickinson even consented to show Benjamin some of her poetry. Benjamin was impressed by Dickinson's work, but told her she would have to work extremely hard to become great. This encouraged her and she came to think of Newton as a tutor of sorts. He recommended authors to her and she read nearly every book he suggested. In 1849, Benjamin Newton told Dickinson that he had decided to move back to Worcester, Massachusetts, the town in which he grew up. Dickinson was devastated by his departure. As a parting gift, Benjamin gave her a copy of Ralph Waldo Emerson's Poems**



**Benjamin Newton (Emily Dickinson's inspirer)**

This slide has far too much text.

While the visual isn't problematic, there is too much text for one page. There is enough text for four or more pages.



**"Hope is a thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul;  
And sings the tune without words  
And never stops at all."**

**-Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)**



**The quality of the photograph on this slide is poor and when projected it degrades further.**

**The color of the font does not have enough contrast to the background.**

**The End**