## Literary Terms Notes

Character:	An individual in a literary work.
• Main Character:	The most important character or characters. (Protagonist)
<ul><li>Minor Characters:</li><li>Antagonist:</li></ul>	All other characters. Provides conflict for Protagonist
• Round Character:	Shows varied personality traits.
• Flat Character:	Reveals only one personality trait.
• Dynamic Character:	Develops and changes in the course of the work as a result of conflict or a new understanding of self.
• Static Character:	Remains the same from beginning to end.
Characterization:	Methods an author uses to reveal a character's personality.
• Direct characterization:	The author or narrator makes direct statements about a character's traits
• Indirect characterization:	The author or speaker reveals a character's personality through the character's own words, thoughts, and actions and through the words, thoughts and actions of another character.
Symbol:	An object, place, person, or experience that represents something else, usually something abstract. It may have more than one meaning or change in meaning through the story.
Foreshadowing:	<ul><li>Clues that hint at events that will occur later in the plot.</li><li>build suspense</li><li>prepare readers for what is to come</li></ul>
Suspense:	Growing interest and excitement readers experience while awaiting the climax or resolution in a work of literature.
Figurative Language:	Language used for descriptive effect, often to imply ideas indirectly. Figurative expressions are not literally true but express some truth beyond the literal level.

•	Figure of Speech:	A specific device or kind of figurative language such as hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, or understatement.
•	metaphor	A figure of speech that compares two or more things that have something in common. A metaphor does not use <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> . "For if dreams die life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly" (Dreams 3-4)
•	simile	A figure of speech using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> to compare seemingly unlike things. "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?" (Deferred 1-4)
•	personification	A figure of speech in which an animal, object, force of nature, or idea is given human qualities or characteristics. "an ocean would never laugh if clouds weren't there to kiss her tears"(477)
•	Dialect	A variation of a standard language spoken by a group of people, often within a particular region. Sentence structure, vocabulary, and punctuation are all affected by dialect.
•	Hyperbole	A figure of speech in which great exaggeration is used for emphasis or humorous effect.
•	Diction	An author's choice of words and the arrangement of those words in phrases, sentences, or lines of a poem.
•	Allusion	A reference in a work of literature to a character, place, or situation from another work of literature, music, or art, or from history.
•	Imagery	The "word picture" that writers use to help evoke an emotional response in a reader. Effective imagery typically appeals to one or more of the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.