

Reading Vocabulary List

Story Elements (Literary Elements)

1. Protagonist – the focus of attention, the main character in a story or play
2. Supporting Character – has important role but is not the focus of attention
3. Characterization – developing a character in a story by describing appearance, revealing thoughts, or letting the character speak
4. Character Traits – all the aspects of the character's behavior and attitudes that make up the character's personality
 - Physical Traits – strong, skillful, awkward, clumsy
 - Social Traits – quiet, grumpy, annoying, polite
 - Mental Traits – wise, crafty, foolish
 - Moral Traits – truthful, wicked, cruel
5. Setting – when and where the story or play takes place
6. Plot – the main events in a story; what happened to whom and in what order
7. Theme – the moral of a story which connects the character, setting, and plot; it is a lesson we learn from the characters.
8. Climax – the turning point in the story
9. Conflict – the problem a character in the story faces
 - Example: Roy in the novel *Hoot* has a conflict with the bully Dana. Dana tries to fight him on the bus.
10. Resolution – how the story ends, how the conflict is resolved
11. Point of view – the perspective from which the story is presented
 - examples are first person (I, me) and third person (he, she, they)
12. Author's Purpose – the message a writer wants to get across to readers
 - Inform, persuade, or entertain



Genre of Literature – form of writing

13. Fiction – short story, novel or play that has characters and events that are made up
 - Types of fiction include mysteries, drama, realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, myths, and fantasies
14. Nonfiction – true information
 - Types of nonfiction include articles, biographies, autobiographies, news stories

Reading Vocabulary

15. Synonym – a word having the similar meaning, or nearly the same meaning, as another word Example: house, home
16. Antonym – a word that means the opposite of another word
 - Example: stop, go big, small
17. Prefix – a syllable or several syllables at the beginning of a word which changes its meaning, examples: antifreeze, unhappy
18. Root – the word base, example: bio = life, so a biography is the story of a person's life
19. Suffix – a syllable or several syllables at the end of a word which changes its meaning or part of speech, example: movement, performed
20. Central idea – the most important idea that is supported by the rest of the paragraph or passage
21. Details – small, but important bits of information
22. Dialogue – conversation between two or more people; used to show what a character is thinking or feeling

23. Abstract term – hard to understand because it cannot be defined
(Ex: love, beauty)
24. Concrete term – have exact, precise meaning (Ex: a 76 story building)
25. Connotation – associated or secondary meaning of an expression; words or phrases that make you feel an emotion when you read them (Ex: a well-worn chair = comfort)
26. Denotation – specific meaning of an expression (Ex: well-worn chair = old piece of furniture)
27. Generalization – a broad overall statement concerning a particular topic
Example: In the poem, “The Witch,” by Jack Prelutsky, we can generalize the witch is ugly and evil.
28. Cite Textual Evidence – provide an exact quote from the passage to support your claims and explain how it helps to support your answer.
 - Example: An example from the passage is, “direct quote.” This quote helps to prove...
29. Key Idea – the idea that an author is interested in supporting
30. Fact – something that is true, a statement that can be proven
 - These trees are green.
31. Opinion – a belief, which may or may not be based on fact
32. Cause/Effect – an action(cause) that brings about a result (effect)
33. Comparison – examining two things looking for similarities and differences
Example: The polar bears are **both** white. However, one is bigger **than** the other.
34. Contrast – shows the differences between two things
 - One difference between the Roy and Dana in the novel *Hoot* is Roy tries to be kind, while Dana tends to be a bully.
35. Sequence – one thing after another in logical order
36. Text Structure—the way the passage is organized (sequence, chronological, compare/contrast, cause and effect, description)

Figurative Language Guided Notes

37. Figurative Language - An expression or description that does not mean exactly what it says
38. Simile – COMPARES two UNLIKE things using “like” or “as”
 - Example: The highway is like a racetrack in the air.
39. Metaphor - A way of describing something by comparing it to something else directly
 - Example: His mind is a super fast computer
40. Personification - Giving something that is not human, human qualities or characteristics
 - Example: The tree danced in the wind.
41. Hyperbole - A hyperbole is an exaggeration of the truth, usually meant to be humorous or funny.
 - Example: I’m so hungry, I could eat a horse.
42. Idiom - An idiom is a phrase that is made up of words which can't be understood by literal, or ordinary, meaning.
 - Example: Hit the hay= go to bed

Sound Devices – used to create attention in poems, stories and plays

43. Alliteration - Repeating consonant sounds at the beginning of words **2** or more times close together
 - Example: Silly snakes slithered away.
44. Onomatopoeia – words that are sounds
 - Examples: Cluck, boom, bang
45. Repetition – repeating the same word or phrase more than once close together

Literary Terms – other terms for reading poetry, stories and plays

46. Irony - When the outcome of events is different from what you expected
- Example: A traffic jam when you're already late
47. Analogy – a comparison between two different things so you can point out something about how they are similar.
- Example: Ink is to pen as lead is to pencil.
48. Foreshadowing - When the author provides clues to the reader at what is to come later in the story or the play. Often characters within the play or story are unaware.
49. Imagery - Descriptive language that incorporates the senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, feel
- Example: It was dark as night. It tastes like eating a cherry ring pop
50. Symbolism - Something which stands for or suggests something else
- Example: Heart is a symbol of love.
51. Stanza is verse in a poem.
- Stanzas are divided by white space.
52. Rhyme
- End rhyme – when words rhyme at the end of lines
 - Internal rhyme – when words rhyme within a line of poetry
53. Rhyme Scheme – the pattern of rhyming words at the end of lines in a poem, if the second line doesn't rhyme with the first, it is assigned a new letter; each stanza starts a new pattern
- Example: ABCB
- There are strange things done in the midnight sun (A)
By men who toil for gold (B)
The arctic trails have secret trails (C)
That would make your blood run cold (B)
54. Rhythm – the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that may create a beat
55. Tone – an author's attitude or expression toward a subject
- Examples: guilt, pride, surprise, triumph, confidence
56. Diction – the author's choice of words to achieve a certain effect
- Example: She comes by night in fearsome flight, in garments black as pitch
(“night” and “black as pitch” are diction words and phrases to achieve a feeling of darkness)
57. Allusion- a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text.

Vocabulary Commonly Used in Assessments

58. Synonyms for show/explain: depict, illustrate, convey, and portray
- _____ the essay to determine if it was written well or written poorly.
59. Argue- Provide reasons to support or oppose something
-Write a letter to _____ whether we should or should not have uniforms.
60. Compare- Identify similarities and differences between two or more items
- _____ the two stories to find similarities and differences between them.
61. Describe- Report what one does in order to capture and convey a process.
- _____ the characteristics of the main character.
62. Determine- Consider all possible options of something in order to arrive at a decision.
- _____ if exotic animals should be kept as pets.
63. Develop- Extend and elaborate on an idea, position, or process
- _____ reasons to support your opinion by finding examples in the text
64. Elaborate- to add details in writing, speaking, etc.
-The student's response to the question was very vague; he needs to _____
more so that the teacher will know he understands the skill.
65. Evaluate- Determine the value, amount, importance, or effectiveness of something in order to understand
if it matters. - _____ whether students should have a study hall.
66. Integrate- Combine different parts into one
- She was nervous when she had to _____ into a new school.
67. Summarize- Retell the essential details of what happened in order to better understand and remember it
- _____ the story into three sentences.
- 68.
- 69.
- 70.
- 71.
- 72.
- 73.
- 74.
- 75.