

Glossary

Reading and Writing Terms

A

alliteration Repetition of a consonant sound, especially at the beginning of words (*sweet silent sounds*) (page 197)

antonym Word that means the opposite of another word (*big, small*) (page 249)

archaic language Words, phrases, and expressions no longer used

assonance Repetition of a vowel sound within words (*rosy glow*) (page 197)

audience Person or people to whom a speech, talk, or piece of writing is addressed (pages 119 – 121)

autobiography Person's account of his or her own life

B

ballad Poem that tells a story, usually of a dramatic event; usually includes a **refrain**

bibliography List of books, articles, and other sources of information used in a report; list of books on a subject (page 214)

biography Account of the life of a real person

body Main section of a piece of writing such as a report or a letter

book report Composition that tells about a book (pages 215 – 216)

business letter Formal letter for business purposes (pages 180 – 184)

C

character People, animals, or objects with human qualities that carry out the action of a story (pages 185 – 189) (see also **main character**)

chronological order See **time order**

cinquain Unrhymed poem of five lines with a specific number of syllables on each line, usually 2–4–6–8–2 (page 200)

cliché Expression that has become tired and dull from too much use (page 253)

climax High point of tension in a story; the point at which the conflict peaks (page 186)

coherent writing Writing in which the ideas are clearly connected (pages 156 – 157)

concise writing Writing that is clear and direct, with no unnecessary words (pages 158 – 159)

conclusion Ending of a piece of nonfiction writing (pages 150, 170, 204)

concrete poetry Poetry appealing to the eye rather than the ear, in which the shape of the words on the page helps convey the meaning (page 201)

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conflict Problem that sets off the events in a story (pages 185 – 186)

connotation Feelings and ideas associated with a word (page 163)

consonance Repetition of a consonant sound or sounds within words, usually with different vowel sounds (*lovely river*) (page 197)

couplet Pair of rhyming lines (page 200)

creative writing Writing in which writers use their imagination to express themselves and create characters, events, and images, as in stories and poems

D

denotation Exact meaning of a word, as in the dictionary (page 163)

descriptive writing Writing that tells what something is like by appealing to the senses and using vivid language (pages 167 – 168)

dialect The way people in a certain group or area speak

dialogue Actual words said by the characters in a story or play (page 188)

diction Choice of words (pages 162 – 163)

discussion Talking about a subject within a group, often with a particular goal in mind (pages 127 – 129)

E

exaggeration Overstatement of something, often deliberately used for special effect or humor

expository writing Writing that informs or explains (pages 169 – 170)

F

fable Story starring animals that teaches a lesson, or *moral*, often stated at the end

fantasy Fiction involving people or events that could not actually exist or happen

fiction Writing that comes from the author's imagination

figurative language Language that uses vivid images to tell what something is like; figures of speech (pages 192 – 194) (see also **simile**, **metaphor**, **personification**)

first person Point of view in a story told by one of the characters, using *I* (page 187)

flashback Interruption of story action to tell something that happened earlier

folktale Traditional story of a certain area or group, usually an oral tale handed down from the past and then written

footnote Piece of information, such as the source of a quotation, placed at the foot of a page (pages 212 – 213)





foreshadowing Hint or clue in a story about what is to come (for example, a weather report predicting a storm as a hint that one of the characters will soon be involved in a storm)

formal language Careful, precise language used for business or formal occasions (page 162)

free verse Verse that does not have a regular rhythm, or meter (page 196)

friendly letter Informal note or letter to friend or relative (pages 174 –179)

H

haiku Japanese verse form; poem of seventeen syllables arranged into three lines that present a single striking image (page 200)

historical fiction Story that comes partly from history and partly from the imagination of the writer

I

image mental picture (page 193)

implied topic sentence The unstated main idea of a paragraph that does not have a **topic sentence** (page 150)

informal language Casual, everyday language (page 162)

interview A question-and-answer conversation that has a purpose (pages 130 – 131)

introduction The opening part of a piece of expository or persuasive writing (page 204)

irony Words that mean the opposite of what is really intended, for example, saying “What a smart thing to do!” to someone who has done something silly or stupid

J

jargon Special or technical language used by people in a special field (page 252)

L

legend Story usually tied to a hero or historical event, sometimes based on truth

limerick Rhymed poem of five lines, usually humorous, in which lines one, two, and five always rhyme (page 27)

literal language Words and phrases that tell about things as they actually are; straightforward, matter-of-fact language (page 192)

lyric poetry Poetry expressing personal feelings and thoughts

M

main character Character who deals with the problem or conflict in a story (page 185)

metaphor Figure of speech based on an implied comparison; says something is something else (pages 168, 193)



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meter Regular beat or rhythmic pattern of some poetry (page 196)

mood Atmosphere, feeling, or emotion of a work (page 188)

myth Story giving imaginary explanation of something in nature

N

narrative Story or series of events (pages 164 – 166)

narrative poetry Poetry that tells a story

narrative writing Writing that tells a real or imaginary story or series of events (pages 164 – 166)

narrator Person or character who tells a story (page 187)

nonfiction Writing based on real events, people, things

novel Book-length fictional story

O

onomatopoeia Use of words that sound like what they mean (*quack, plop*) (page 197)

order of importance Arrangement of supporting facts and details according to how important they are; for example, from most to least important or from least to most important (page 152)

outline Organized arrangement of main ideas and details; often used as preparation for writing (page 211)

P

pace Rate at which the action in a story moves; the “rhythm” of a story

parable Story that presents a clear, simple version of a problem in order to teach a lesson or moral

paragraph Group of sentences about one main idea (pages 147 – 150)

paraphrasing Stating something in different words (page 210)

parody Imitation of a particular work or style, designed to be humorous

personal narrative Series of real events told by the person who experienced them (pages 164 – 166)

personification Use of human qualities for nonhuman creatures or objects; a figure of speech (page 194)

persuasive writing Writing that tries to convince someone to believe something or to take an action (pages 171 – 173)

plot Series of connected events in a story, during which a character faces a problem or conflict, the conflict rises to a high point or climax, and the conflict is finally resolved (pages 185 – 189)

poetry Type of writing that uses language to create sounds and images, usually expressing personal feelings (pages 190 – 201)





point of view Position or "eyes" through which a story is told — **first person**, **third person limited**, **third person omniscient** (page 187)

pun Humorous remark based on a word that has more than one meaning or that sounds like another word (page 247)

purpose Reason for speaking or writing; effect a speaker or writer wants to have (pages 119 – 121)

Q

quotation Repetition of someone's exact words; used with quotation marks ("")

R

rambling sentences Sentences that have too much information and as a result are unclear (page 159)

realistic fiction Fiction based on events that are imaginary but could happen (as opposed to **fantasy**)

redundancy Unnecessary repetition of words or meanings (page 159)

refrain Line or phrase repeated regularly in a poem, usually at the end of each stanza

report Composition, based on research, presenting facts about a topic (pages 202 – 214)

resolution The way the main character finally deals with the conflict or problem in a story (pages 185 – 187, 189)

rhyme Use of words ending with the same vowel and consonant sounds (*beat, feet*) (page 196)

rhyme scheme Pattern of rhyme followed in a particular poem; usually shown by letters of the alphabet, in which each letter stands for a different rhyming sound (*abab*) (page 199)

S

sarcasm Saying one thing but meaning something else, usually to insult or taunt

science fiction Writing that comes from the imagination but uses some aspect of science and usually takes place in another time or another world

sensory words Words that appeal to one or more of the senses — sight, sound, smell, touch/feeling, taste (pages 167 – 168)

setting Time and place of the events of a story (pages 185, 188)

simile Comparison between two unlike things; figure of speech that says something is like something else, using *like* or *as* (pages 168, 193)

sonnet Poem of fourteen lines that follows a certain rhyme scheme

spatial order Arrangement of facts or details in a description according to where the details are located, for example, from left to right or top to bottom (page 152)



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stanza Group of lines in a poem that follows a certain rhythmic pattern (page 200)

story (short story) Series of events with a plot, a setting, and characters (pages 185 – 189)

summary Brief statement giving the main points of something (page 217)

symbol Something that stands for something else, such as a flag, which stands for a nation

synonym Word with a meaning similar to another word (*large, big*) (page 249)

T

tall tale Story with exaggerated characters and events, usually told for fun

theme Main or underlying idea or message of a piece of writing; may or may not be stated

thesis statement Sentence that states the main idea of a composition of more than one paragraph, such as a report (pages 172, 204)

third person limited Point of view in a story told by one of the characters using *he* or *she* (page 187)

third person omniscient (all-knowing) Point of view in a story told by an all-knowing impersonal narrator, using *he, she, they* (page 187)

time order Events or steps presented in the order in which they occur (pages 22 – 23, page 152)

tone Attitude of the author conveyed in a piece of writing, such as anger, humor, or **irony**

topic sentence Sentence that tells the main idea of a paragraph (see also **implied topic sentence**) (pages 147 – 150)

transitions Words and phrases that tell how ideas and things are related; for example, *before, above, soon, although, therefore* (pages 154, 157)

U

unified writing Writing in which all sentences and details relate to the topic (page 155)

