



Literary Terms

Copy list without definitions.

Then, as pre-assessment then ask students to indicate level of knowledge of terms.
+ if you can explain term; ✓ if you're familiar with term; - if you don't know term

Term	Definition
CHARACTERIZATION	Methods a writer uses to develop the personality of a character
CLIMAX	The point of greatest emotional intensity – when the main character comes face to face with the opposing force
CONFLICT	The struggle between two opposing forces that lies at the center of a plot in a story, novel, narrative poem, or drama
DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION	Writer makes direct statements about a character's personality or motivation.
EXPOSITION	A writer's introduction to the characters, setting, and the situation at the beginning of a story, novel, narrative poem, or drama
EXTERNAL CONFLICT	Conflict between a character and forces outside him/herself
FALLING ACTION	In a play or story the action that follows the climax bringing plot to a close
FIRST PERSON POINT OF VIEW	Occurs when the author tells the story as a character in the story
INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION	Writer reveals a character's personality through the character's words and actions and through what other characters say and think about the character
INTERNAL CONFLICT	Occurs when the character is in conflict with him/herself
LIMITED OMNISCIENT	The narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character in the story
MOTIVATION	The stated or implied reason that characters in a literary work behave as they do
NARRATIVE HOOK, TRIGGERING ACTION	The point in a story or novel at which the author catches the reader's attention by presenting an interesting problem or situation that the main character will attempt to solve
OMNISCIENT	The narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of several characters in the story
PLOT	The sequence of events that make of a story, novel, narrative poem, or drama
POINT OF VIEW	The relationship of the writer/narrator or storyteller to the story
RESOLUTION	The part of the plot that concludes the falling action by revealing or suggesting the outcome of the conflict
RISING ACTION	The part of the plot that adds complications and obstacles to thwart the protagonist's attempt to solve problems and that increase the reader's interest
SETTING	The time and place in which the events of a story, novel, narrative poem or play occur
THEME	The main idea of the literary work usually expressed in a general statement about what is revealed about human nature that is true regardless of time or place.