

Name: _____

Literary Terms

Literary Terms- Structures used by writers in their works to convey his or her messages in a simple manner to the readers.

Characterization- The methods an author uses to create characters. Authors create characters through their appearance, speech, actions, thoughts, feelings, and other characters' reactions.

Direct Characterization- This is when the author tells the reader something about a character directly in the text.

Indirect Characterization- The act of creating and describing a character.

Protagonist- The main character; the "good guy"

Antagonist- A force working against the protagonist, or main character. The "bad guy."

Conflict- The problem or struggle between two opposing forces.

Internal- The conflict is **INSIDE** of the main character.

Man vs. Self- When a character's struggle is internal. This character must overcome a choice, decision, or an emotion.

External- The conflict is **OUTSIDE** of the main character.

Man vs. Man- When a character has a conflict with another character.

Man vs. Nature- When a character is dealing with a form of nature, whether it is a storm, an animal, or a force of nature.

Man vs. Society- When a character is struggling with a particular group.

Setting- The time, place, and general environment in which a story takes place.

Theme- The underlying message about life or human nature that is communicated by a story. The lesson learned.

Plot- The sequence of events that bring about the resolution of a conflict.

Introduction- Setting and characters are introduced.

Rising Action- Suspense builds, the conflict is introduced.

Climax- The turning point or decision point providing a solution to the conflict.

Falling Action- Events that lead to the resolution.

Resolution- Loose ends are tied up, the conflict is resolved, and the story ends.

Symbol- A concrete object that represents an abstract idea.

Stereotype- A broad generalization about something or someone that leaves no room for individual differences.

Foreshadowing- An author's use of hints and clues to suggest events that will occur later in the story.

Flashback- An interruption to a story to present an event that had occurred at an earlier time.

Mood- The overall feeling a literary work conveys to the readers.

Tone- The author's attitude, stated or implied, toward a subject.

Point of View- The relationship between the narrator and the story.

First Person- The narrator is a character in the story. The reader only sees and knows what the narrator sees and knows. Refers to self as "I."

Third Person- The narrator is outside of the story.

Objective- The narrator reports only speech and actions.

Omniscient- The narrator knows and reports all speech, actions, thoughts, and feelings.

Inference- A reasonable conclusion drawn by the reader from the author's clues and the reader's own knowledge and experience.

Irony- The opposite of what is expected.

Situational- The outcome of what is expected.

Dramatic- The reader knows more about the situation than the character.

Verbal- Saying the opposite of what is meant for humorous or sarcastic effect.

Author's Purpose- The author's reason for creating a particular work. Ex. to explain, to inform, to persuade, to entertain

Genre- A type or category of literature. Ex. fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama

Figurative Language- Language that goes beyond its ordinary literal meaning.

Alliteration- Repeated consonant sounds occurring at the beginning of words or within words.

Hyperbole- Deliberate and obvious exaggeration.

Imagery- Concrete details that appeal to the five senses.

Onomatopoeia- The use of words whose sounds suggest their meaning.

Personification- The giving of human qualities to an animal, object, or idea.

Simile- A comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as."

Metaphor- An implied comparison between two unlike things.

Rhyme- The repetition of syllable sounds.

Rhythm- The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.