

Literary Terms – Beginning Level

Autobiography

A person tells their own life story

Chronological Order

The arrangement of events in time

Character

A person who is in the story

Conflict

Things that happen oppose the main character, makes things complicated

Description

Rich words, images, language that tell things, describe places or people

Dialogue

Characters' talk in the story

First Person Point of View

“I” tells the story

Rhyme

Sounds at end of lines match the ends of other lines

Rhythm

The author uses regular or irregular beats or stresses

Setting

The time and place in which a story takes place

Literary Terms – Intermediate Level

Alliteration

Words that repeat a consonant sound, like Peter Piper Pizzer

Climax

Part of a story that is most exciting or where major conflict is solved

Free Verse

The poetry that does not have any particular rhyme or rhythm

Imagery

Pictures created – kind of painted – in words

Metaphor

A comparison between two things, not alike, but no *like* or *as* is used

Onomatopoeia

The word is spelled like the sound effect it makes, e.g. Pow! Or zipper

Point of View

Who is telling the story

Plot

The order of things that happen in a story, beginning, middle and end

Simile

A comparison between two things that uses *like* or *as*

Stanza

A section of a poem or song – like a paragraph is to regular writing

Theme

A moral, lesson or insight that an author tells or suggests in a story

Literary Terms – Advanced Level

Argument

Opposing ideas or points of view are presented

Connotation

What the author implies indirectly

Dialogue

Language from a certain region or part of a country

Diction

Distinction in pronunciation or choices of words

Essay

A short composition on a single subject

Exposition

What the beginning of a story is called

Flashback

Looking back in the past

Foreshadowing

Hints the author gives about what might happen in a story

Hyperbole

An exaggeration to make a point

Idiom

Saying or words particular to one language

Mood

The feeling the author creates

Narration

What the narrator does as the story is told

Persuasion

Type of writing, to try and change someone's mind or convince them

Suspense

To keep the audience wondering or anxious about what might happen in a story

Tone

Author conveys an attitude