

Literary Terminology

Many of these words you will have met in primary school. Others you will come across in the course of secondary school.

Do your best to remember them and, where appropriate, to use them when talking and writing about literature.

allegory

alliteration

allusion

analogy

antithesis

archetype

assonance

atmosphere

audience

bathos

caesura

character

characterisation

consonance

dialogue

effect

euphemism

figurative language

foreshadowing

form

hyperbole

imagery

internal rhyme

inversion

irony

juxtaposition

litotes

metaphor

mood

motif

onomatopoeia

oxymoron

paradox

pathetic fallacy

pathos

personification

plot

point of view

purpose

rhyme

rhythm

satire

setting

simile

style

stanza

stream of consciousness

structure

suspense

symbol

theme

tone

understatement

verse

viewpoint

Language Terminology

With a few exceptions, these are all words you will have met in primary school.

Do your best to remember them throughout secondary and to use them, if appropriate, when writing and talking about language.

A. Word Classes

1. Nouns

- proper
- abstract
- concrete
- collective
- noun phrase
- extended noun phrase

2. Verbs

- voice
 - active
 - passive
- aspect
 - progressive
 - perfective
- tense
 - past
 - present
 - future
- mood
 - subjunctive
 - conditional
 - indicative
 - interrogative
 - imperative
- finite
- infinitive
- transitive
- intransitive
- modal
- regular
- irregular
- phrasal
- participle

3. Adjectives

- comparative
- superlative

4. Adverbs

- comparative
- superlative
- adverbials (incl. fronted)

5. Prepositions

6. Conjunctions

- coordinating
- subordinating

7. Pronouns

- personal
 - subjective
 - objective
- possessive
- reflexive
- relative

8. Determiners

- articles
 - definite
 - indefinite
- possessive

B. Sentences

- subject
- object
- clause
 - main
 - subordinate
 - relative
- phrase
- subordination
- coordination
- simple
- compound
- complex
- multi-clause

C. Punctuation

- ellipsis
- hyphen
- colon
- semi-colon
- full-stop
- question mark
- exclamation mark
- inverted commas
- apostrophe
- parenthesis
 - brackets
 - dash

D. Words and word construction

- morphology
 - prefix
 - suffix
 - root
- antonym
- synonym
- homonym
- consonant
- vowel
- etymology