

Course Glossary

abstract - an existing idea, feeling, or quality that is not a material or physical object (an abstract thing cannot be physically seen or touched because it has no physical properties)
examples: love, peace, anger, etc.

alliteration - words in close proximity have same starting sound for effect

cacophony - the use of harsh sounds to create harsh effect or dark mood

character foil - opposite characters placed together to emphasize the characteristics of each

character trait - character trait and personality trait both mean the qualities of a characters personality (they do not mean physical appearance)

cinematography - the art of making motion-picture photography (the use of various filming techniques)

cite - acknowledgement of using the information of another person (source citation)

concrete - existing in a material or physical form (can be physically seen and felt)
the opposite of abstract

conflict - There are three types of conflict:

Person vs Person (a character(s) are in conflict against another character(s))

Person vs Self (a character is in conflict with self - may struggle with choices)

Person vs Environment (anything the character struggles against within the character's environment. This may be nature, social injustice, social expectations, physical environment, etc.)

context - the background, environment, setting, framework, or surroundings of events or occurrences

creative writing - writing that expresses thoughts and ideas in an imaginative way

diary entry - an informal reflection of personal thoughts or experiences written to no one in particular, begins with "Dear Diary" and usually closes with an informal closing of choice, such as "Until tomorrow, Dear Diary," or perhaps "Night now Dear Diary!"

-a personal account of day-to-day events or observations and usually kept private for the writer

dramatic irony - a contrast between what a character knows and what the audience knows

elements of plot - the sequence of events of a story

essential questions - a question that provokes much thought about life, and has no correct answer

euphony - the use of "soft" sounds in writing to create a sense of calm or "soft" atmosphere

figurative language - the use of literary techniques to create message, meaning, theme, or mood to the audience (figures of speech & sound devices)

figures of speech - certain literary devices used to create message, meaning, theme, or mood to the audience

foreshadowing - a hint of events that will happen later

free verse poetry - verse with no set rhyme scheme, that may or may not have set form, structure, or rhythm

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friendly letter - also known as a personal letter, written to someone with whom the writer has a personal relationship, less formal than a business letter no addresses are necessary, but may be included, does have a date, usually begins with Dear...., usually ends with a friendly closure (see letter closure in this glossary for further letter closure detail)

haiku poetry - an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usually five, seven, and five syllables respectively; usually has a reference to nature

hyperbole - gross exaggeration for emphasis or humour

imagery - vivid or figurative language that appeals to the reader's five senses

irony - a technique of meaning something opposite to what is said, often conveyed by tone that contradicts words

journal - a record of experiences, ideas, or reflections, generally considered to be less personal than an official diary, entries are dated, not addressed to anyone specific, often meant to be shared with others

journalist article - informative writing usually written for newspapers, magazines, or broadcasts

letter - written communication that may be formal or informal

letter closing - words such as Yours truly, or Sincerely, that conventionally come immediately before the signature of a letter and express the sender's regard for the receiver (notice that a closing is followed by a comma), also called a complimentary closing

Examples of friendly letter closures:

Love, Bye for now, Your pal, Missing you, Your friend, See you soon,

Examples of business letter or formal letter closures:

Yours truly, Yours sincerely,

literary device - a technique that produces a specific effect for the reader (Examples are similes & metaphors which compare two unlike things)

memoir - writing that is about personal memories where the writer has personal knowledge or experience

metaphor - comparison of two unlike things by saying/implying one thing is the other

onomatopoeia - when a word makes its own sound when orally pronounced

paraphrase - to put someone else's content into your own words

personality trait - see character trait as they mean the same thing (give personality qualities of a person/character)

personification - giving human like qualities or characteristics to inanimate objects or animals

physical trait - physical appearance of a character

Prose - writing that is written using sentence format (cannot be poetry)

rhyming couplet - two lines of poetry that rhyme, are typically the same length, and address one thought or idea

rhyming words - words that sound the same when spoken, they don't necessarily have to be spelt the same

salutation - initial greeting in a letter (Dear Friend, Dear Sir:)

Notice that a friendly letter salutation is followed by a comma, whereas a business letter salutation is followed by a colon

sarcasm - the purposeful use of remarks that clearly mean the opposite of what they say may be used to project humor or emphasis, sometimes used to project an insulting tone

satire - when a text creator points out shortcomings of people, organizations, ideas in a somewhat humorous or ironic way

script - the written text of a stage play, screenplay, or broadcast

signature - a signature authenticates that you have read and agree to the contents of a document, or that you have created the document and it is original.

For a friendly letter you would type or sign your first name after the closing.

For a business letter, you would leave some spaces after the letter closing, and then type your first and last name. (For our purposes you need not actually hand write your signature in the spaces between, but for a real business letter, this would be necessary. Signatures may now be done on computers with some programs.

Yours truly,

Fred Smith would normally be hand written in this space between

Fred Smith (this would be typed)

simile - comparison of two unlike things using the words, "like," "as," or "than"

situational irony - a contrast between what happens and what we expect to happen

sonnet - a poem, most often expresses one single, complete thought, idea, or sentiment, of 14 lines

sound devices - figurative language that appeals to the auditory sense of hearing (examples: onomatopoeia, repetition, rhythm, rhyme, etc.)

stanza - a division of a poem consisting of a series of lines arranged together in a usually recurring pattern of meter and rhyme, a stanza division may show a change of mood, ideas, time, etc.

suspense - tension created when the audience does not know what will happen next

symbolism - a person, place, or thing representing an abstract idea or concept (anything that stands for something beyond itself in a larger sense.)

text - includes oral, print, visual, and multimedia forms

text creator - anyone who creates any type of literary work or piece

transitional sentences - sentences that join your ideas or writing topics together so that your ideas "flow" for easy understanding, these sentences give your reader direction as you change ideas or direction in your writing, a transitional sentence will link your last idea to your new and slightly different idea

Example: Similar to the text, I have also had an experience like the protagonist

URL - a uniform resource locator (URL) is the address of a resource on the internet, a URL indicates the location of a resource as well as the protocol used to access it

values - what a person/character feels is important in life

Examples: if a character works for years at the same place, he/she probably values hard work and loyalty / if a person who wears loud unmatched clothing may value freedom of expression

verbal irony - a contrast between what is said and what is meant

verbatim - to quote someone else's words or work exactly

visual elements - elements such as size, focus, colour, contrast, lighting, etc. used for purposeful effect and message