

Some very Important literary Terms

Terms to remember and learn:

Antagonist: Character in conflict with the main character.

Character: A person, animal, or imaginary creature in literary work.

Characterization: Creation of imaginary people who appear to be real to the reader. The writer gives information about the characters in the story.

Climax: Action comes to its highest point of conflict.

Conflict: A problem in the story that needs to be resolved.

Connotation: Set of ideas associated with a word in addition to the word's actual, explicit meaning.

Denotation: Independent of other associations that the word may have.

Diction: Word choice including vocabulary used, word appropriateness, vividness of language.

Dramatic irony: Contradiction between what a character thinks and what

the readers know is true.

Dynamic character: A character that changes significantly throughout the course of a story.

Exposition/Introduction: Beginning of the story where the characters and the setting are revealed.

External conflict: Struggle (physical or emotional) between two characters or between character and other thing/s (e.g. nature etc.).

Falling action: Event and complications begin to resolve themselves.

Fiction: Imaginary characters and events. Fiction can be entirely imaginary or based on real events and/people.

Imagery: Descriptive figurative language.

Internal conflict: Struggle that occurs in character's mind.

Irony: Difference between appearance and reality, expectation and result.

Metaphor: One thing is spoken of as though it is something else completely.

Mood: Feeling created in the reader by the literary work.

Narrator: The person from whose perspective a story is told.

Personification: on-human object is given human characteristic

Plot: A series of events through which the writer reveals what is happening, to whom, and why.

Point of view: The position of the narrator of the story and what the writer sees from that point.

Protagonist: Main character.

Resolution: Action after the climax until the end of the story/ the conclusion of the story.

Rising action: The events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed.

Secondary character: Less important character who interacts with the main character.

Setting: Tells the readers where and when the story takes place.

Simile: Comparison between two unlike things using 'like'.

Situational irony: An event directly contradicts expectations of the readers or of the characters.

Static character: A character that changes a little bit from the beginning to the end.

Symbol: Something that has a literal meaning but also stands for or represents an abstract idea.

Theme: The story's main ideas. The 'message' the writer intends to communicate by telling the story.

Tone: Attitude toward the subject that an author conveys in a piece of writing.

Verbal irony: A word/phrase used to suggest the opposite of its actual meaning.

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