

*Conflict*: internal and external—the problem the characters must solve

*Suspense*: a situation in the story where the reader is uncertain as to the safety of the characters

*Theme*: a truth in life that is also true in the story

*Protagonist*: main character of a literary work with whom we usually sympathize

*Antagonist*: character or force working against the protagonist

*Villain*: A character who hurts others for his or her own self interests

*Tragic Hero*: a main character who has a defect in his personality which causes his downfall. This defect is called a *Tragic Flaw*. A story whose main character is a tragic hero is called a *Tragedy*.

*Cultural Literacy*: the ability to understand and participate fluently in a given culture. A cultural literate knows a culture's signs and symbols, idioms, and stories.

*Foreshadowing*: hints about the future of events in a literary work

*Irony*: when one thing is typical, but another thing occurs:

*Situational Irony*: when something happens, but we readers expected the opposite

*Dramatic Irony*: when the audience knows something the characters don't know

*Verbal Irony*: sarcasm... what's said is the opposite of what's meant

*Setting*: surroundings, many of which can be sensed: time, weather, atmosphere

*Simile*: a comparison of 2 seemingly unlike things using "like" or "as"

*Metaphor*: a comparison of 2 seemingly unlike things, saying that one "is" the other

*Character*: someone in a story

*flat*: shows only one facet or side to himself or herself

*round*: shows varied and sometimes contradictory sides of himself

*static*: he/she never changes throughout the work of literature

*dynamic*: he/she changes in the story, often for the better

*Characterization*: direct and indirect ways in which the writer portrays the characters' personalities

*Symbol/Symbolism*: objects or ideas which represent more than what they appear to on the surface

*Motivation*: characters' reasons for doing things they do

*Plot*: sequence of events in a story, where one event leads to the next: exposition, narrative hook, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

*Mood*: The emotional quality of a story

*Tone*: The author's obvious attitude or opinion about the work's topic

*Dialect*: a variety of language spoken by those from a certain region or background

*Point of view*: The relationship of the narrator to the story

*1st Person*: the narrator is a character, and the events were seen by him

*3rd Person Omniscient*: the narrator reveals the thoughts and emotions of many characters

*3rd Person Limited*: reveals the thoughts of only one character

*Narrator*: the voice of the story. This is from whose Point of View the story is told.

*Connotation*: what a word or phrase indirectly refers to

*Denotation*: the dictionary definition of a word

*Allusion*: a direct reference to a related idea, or work of literature

*Idiom*: a phrase which has figurative meaning, and is understood by the majority of a culture: "You're pulling my leg!"