



LITERARY TERMS

A LIST OF TECHNICAL VOCABULARY

Action

The verbal or physical events in a narrative.

Allusion

A reference to something outside the text, such as a myth, painting or historical event.

Anti-hero

A protagonist with morally questionable or unappealing characteristics.

Archetype

A character or narrative element that occurs repeatedly across times and cultures

Bildungsroman

A novel depicting the protagonist's physical, psychological and emotional growth and development from childhood to adulthood.

Character

A fictionalised person, animal or other living being, imagined and created by an author.

Characterisation

The presentation of a character through narrative description, behaviour, thoughts and actions.

Climax

The point at which the narrative drama reaches its peak.

Conflict

A physical or psychological struggle between characters; or between a character and external forces.

Dénouement

The phase of action that follows the climax and in which the drama subsides, and the narrative is concluded.

Dialogue

The representation of a verbal exchange between characters.

Epilogue

A short section at the end of a novel that describes what happens to the characters after the events of the main narrative.

Exposition

The first phase of the narrative in which the scene is set and the characters are introduced.

Figurative language

A general term for literary devices such as simile, metaphor and imagery.

Flashback

A scene inserted into a narrative that is set at an earlier fictional time.

Foreshadowing

A hint or clue provided by the author about what may happen later in the narrative.

Imagery

A sensory description used to capture a

feeling, idea or object.

'In media res'

An expression used to describe a plot structure in which the narrative opens part way through the events of the story.

Irony

A difference between what is said by a character or narrator, and what is known or understood by the reader.

Metaphor

A figure of speech in which one entity is equated with another because they share certain similarities.

Narrative

The telling of a story, including the plotting and the way it is told.

Narrative Voice

The qualities, attitudes and style of language used by the narrator.

Plot

The selection and arrangement of events in a story.

Point of View

The perspective from which a story is told.

Protagonist

The main character in a narrative, around whom the story revolves.

Scene

A short section of narrative that describes the actions of certain characters in a single setting.

Setting

The fictional time and place in which a scene takes places.

Simile

A figure of speech in which one thing is explicitly compared to something else because they share certain characteristics.

Story

A series of events linked by cause and effect.

Stream of consciousness

A style of writing in which the author attempts to capture the flow of a character's internal thoughts and feelings.

Style

The distinctive way in which an author combines different aspects of language to create a narrative.

Symbol

A specific person, place, object or event that is used by the author to represent something else.

Theme

An idea or topic that is explored within the narrative.

