**Literary Terms**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| Indirect characterization | What the author shows us about a character (actions, how others react to the character, what the character says) |
| Direct characterization | What the author tells us about a character (what type of person he/she is) |
| Internal conflict | Mental or emotional struggle that occurs within the mind of a character, usually the protagonist |
| External conflict | Struggle between a character and an outside force |
| Figurative language | Words that create interesting images using language that has deeper meaning or appeals to the imagination |
| Foreshadowing | Any hint or clue of future events in a narrative |
| Protagonist | The main character or hero of the story. |
| Antagonist | The person or thing working against the protagonist of the work. |
| Foil | Someone who serves as a contrast or challenge to another character. |
| Symbol | A person, place, thing, or an event used to represent something else. |
| Theme | The main idea or basic meaning of a literary work |
| Denotation | The exact meaning of a word without influence from feelings or suggestions |
| Connotation | An association for a word that is implied by the word’s ideas or qualities |

**Dramatic Terms**

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| Drama | A written work that tells a story through action and is meant to be performed |
| Comedic resolution | A happy or pleasant ending to signify a character’s acceptance by society |
| Tragic resolution | An unhappy, disastrous end; a final downfall of a character brought on by an error in judgment or outside forces |
| Comedy | Literature that deals with life in humorous or satiric manner. Comedies end on a happy note. |
| Tragedy | A literary work in which the hero is destroyed by some character flaw and by forces beyond his or her control. |
| Aside | A brief statement that audiences can hear, but other characters cannot |
| Monologue | A long talk by a single character; other characters may be present on stage |
| Soliloquy | A speech delivered by a character when he or she is alone on stage. |
| Dialogue | A direct conversation between characters |

**Poetry Terms**

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| Poetry | A composition written in verse that usually uses rhythm or rhyme |
| Verse | A metric line of poetry. Named according to the kind and number of feet composing it. |
| Sonnet | A poem consisting of fourteen lines of iambic pentameter. |
| Stanza | A division of poetry for the number of line it contains. |
| Quatrain | Four line stanza. |
| Couplet | Two lines of verse the same lengths that usually rhyme. |
| Meter | The patterned repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry. |
| Blank verse | An unrhymed form of poetry that normally consists of ten syllables in which every other syllable, beginning with the second, is stressed. |
| Free verse | Poetry that does not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme. |

**Figurative language/figures of speech**

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| Figurative language | Words that create interesting images using language that has deeper meaning or appeals to the imagination |
| Figure of speech | An expression in which words are used in unusual or non-literal ways to create a vivid or dramatic effects |
| Metaphor | A comparison of two unlike things not using like or as |
| Simile | A comparison of two unlike things using like or as |
| Personification | Inhuman objects are given human-like qualities |
| Pun | Word or phrase that is used in such way as to suggest more than one possible meaning. |
| Analogy | A comparison of two or more similar objects, suggesting if they are alike in certain respects they will be alike in others as well. |
| Oxymoron | A combination of contradictory terms. |
| Imagery | The words or phrases a writer selects to create a certain picture in the readers mind. Usually based on sensory details. |
| Irony | Literary technique that contains a contrast of incongruity between what is stated and what is meat; usually involves surprise, interest, or amusing contradictions |
| Allusion | A reference in literature to a familiar person, place, thing, or event. |
| Epithet | A word or phrase used in place of a person’s name; it is characteristic of that person. |
| Euphemism | An inoffensive or indirect word or expression substituted for a word considered offensive or too direct |