

5th hour
2009-2010

Literature Terms
Slide Show

Ambiguity

- Example-"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." -A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- Pronunciation Key- \am-bə-gyü-ə-tē\
The pronunciation key is written in a standard phonetic notation. The 'ü' in 'gyü' is a diphthong, and the 'ē' in 'tē' is a long vowel.
- Definition-(noun) An unclear, indefinite or equivocal word, expression or meaning. Doubtfulness or uncertainty of meaning or intention.

Euphemism

- Example-The old woman passed away in her sleep.
- Pronunciation Key- \yü-fə-mi-zəm\
- Definition-(noun) The substitution of a mild, indirect or vague expression or word for one thought to be offensive, harsh or blunt

Onomatopoeia

- Example- 'Hear the sledges with the bells -
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells -
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.'- Excerpt from "The Bells"
by Edgar Allan Poe
- Pronunciation Key- \ä-nə-mä-tə-pē-ə, -ma-\
- Definition-(noun) Word so formed by the imitation of a sound made by or associated with its referent

Style

- Example- "I lingered round them, under that benign sky; watched the moths fluttering among the heath and harebells, listened to the soft wind breathing through the grass, and wondered how anyone could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth." –Emily Bronte
- This quote shows the authors style of vivid imagery, long sentence structure and the use of uncommon phrases.
- Pronunciation Key- \stī(-ə)l\
- Definition-(noun) The writers chosen manner of expression. The choice of words, literary devices, tone, grammatical structure and shaping of sentences and paragraphs used to express writers thought.

Foil

Foil- (foil)

1. Prevent from being successful; thwart
2. To obscure or confuse

Ex: Juliet's plan for escaping with Romeo by faking her own death was foiled when Romeo committed suicide after believing that Juliet truly was dead.

Asyndeton

Asyndeton- (a-syn-de-ton)

1. the omission of a conjunction between the parts of a sentence

Ex: The girls splashed, dove, swam and kicked.

Persona

Persona- (Per-son-a)

1. A voice or character representing the speaker in literary work

Ex: The main character Holden was the persona from *The Catcher In the Rye*

DIDACTIC

Adjective

di·dac·tic (dī-dăk'tik)

Didactic Poem- used to teach a lesson.

“The Raven” By Edgar Allan Poe

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
“Sir,” said I, “or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping—tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you”—here I opened wide the door:—
Darkness there and nothing more.

Love is undying

The Grapes of Wrath By John Steinbeck

A waitress named Mae and a cook named Al
work at a coffee shop on Route 66.

One will be rewarded in the end

Mae does not want to sell a man a loaf of bread, after
she does she also sells dime candy two for a penny.

*Intended to instruct, morally instructive, inclined to teach or moralize excessively.

Metonymy

Noun

me·ton·y·my (mə-tŏn'ə-mē)

Out, Out

By Robert Frost

As he swung toward them holding up the hand
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep
The life from spilling.

Meaning- to keep the blood from
spilling.

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

"And learn me how to lose a winning match,
Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhoods"

Romeo takes Juliet's virginity.

*A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated.

SETTING

Noun

set·ting (sĕt'ing)

Life of Pi

By Yann Martel

Pondicherry, India; the Pacific Ocean; Tomatlán, Mexico; and, briefly, Toronto, Canada

The Stranger

By Albert Camus

"The scorching blade slashed at my eyelashes and stabbed at my stinging eyes. That's when everything began to reel. The sea carried up a thick, fiery breath. It seemed to me as if the sky split open from one end to the other to rain down fire. My whole being tensed and I squeezed my hand around the revolver. The trigger gave; I felt the smooth underside of the butt; and there, in that noise, sharp and deafening at the same time, is where I tall started. I shook off the sweat and sun.

* A combination of place, historical time, and social milieu that provides the general background for characters and plot of a literary work. This includes physical backdrops of a play. For example, props.

Allegory

In Lord of the Flies the main characters Ralph, Piggy, Simon, Jack, and Roger all represent a different part of society.

Ex. "Which is better -- to be a pack of painted Indians like you are, or to be sensible like Ralph is....Which is better -- to have laws and agree, or to hunt and kill?" said Jack

Jack is supposed to represent the savage, and evil part of society as where Ralph is supposed to represent order and civilization.

Definition-a representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.

Elegy

But O heart! heart! heart!

O the bleeding drops of red,

Where on the deck my captain lies,

Fallen cold and dead. – “O Captain, O Captain”

Definition-a mournful, melancholy, or plaintive poem, esp. a funeral song or a lament for the dead. A poem written in elegiac meter.

Situation Irony

Ex. Macbeth by William Shakespeare: The witches predict one thing, which happens to come true but Macbeth often misinterprets their words

Definition: A contradiction of expectation between what might be expected and what actually occurs often connected to a fatalistic or pessimistic view of life

Chiasmus

Example: “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” –Matthew 23: 11-12 Bible

Pronunciation: kahy-az-muh s

Definition: A reversal in the order of words in two otherwise parallel phrases. A verbal pattern in which the second half of the expression is balanced against the first with the parts reversed.

Hubris

Example: “The sudden light of joy that shone in Tom’s face as he raised his hands to heaven, his emphatic ‘Bless the Lord!’ rather discomposed St. Clare; he did not like that Tom should be so ready to leave him.” Uncle Tom’s Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe

St. Clare believes that his slavery is a lot better than Tom’s freedom could ever be.

Pronunciation: hyōō'brīs

Definition: Overbearing pride or presumption; arrogance.

Point of View

Example: “Do you say that the people of the free states have nothing to do with it, and can do nothing? Would to God this were true! But it is not true. The people of the free states have defended, encouraged, and participated; and are more guilty for it, before God, than the South, in that they have *not* the apology of education or custom.” Uncle Tom’s Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe

The narrator’s point of view is that the free states are, in fact, worse than the southern states.

Pronunciation: pɔɪnt ʌv vju

Definition: The position of the narrator in relation to the story, as indicated by the narrator's outlook from which the events are depicted and by the attitude toward the characters.

Verbal Irony

Example: ““Dear little Eva,-poor child!’ Said St. Clare, ‘she had set her little simple soul on a good work for me.’” Uncle Tom’s Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe

Eva is not a poor child, she is a very affluent one. Also, her soul is not little nor simple. The speaker knows this.

Pronunciation: vɜr bəl aɪ rə ni

Definition: A figure of speech in which what is said is the opposite of what is meant.

Characterization

- **Pronunciation:** ker-ik-t(ə-)rə- zā-shən, ka-rik

Example:

- She was not a good-looking woman, my sister; and I had a general impression that she must have made Joe Gargery marry her by hand. Joe was a fair man, with curls of flaxen hair on each side of his smooth face, and with eyes of such a very undecided blue that they seemed to have somehow got mixed with their own whites. He was a mild, good-natured, sweet-tempered, easy-going, foolish, dear fellow – a sort of Hercules in strength, and also in weakness.

- *Great Expectations by Charles Dickens*

- **Definition:** The act of describing distinctive characteristics, features, or important facts among a character.



Genre

*It's like the
Animal Kingdom,
but for literature!*

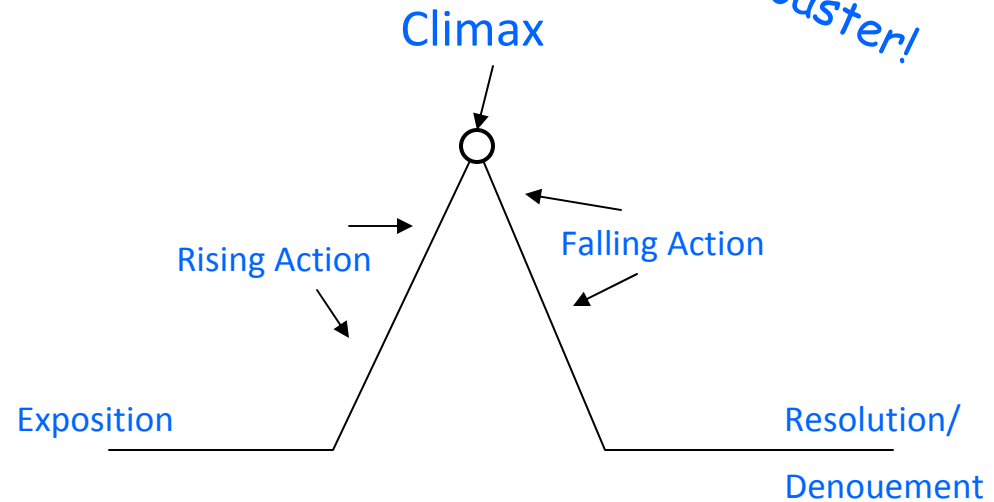
- Pronunciation: \zhän-rə
- Examples: Genres of literature
 - Poetry
 - Epic
 - Lyric
 - Dramatic
 - Drama
 - Comedy
 - Farce, satire, burlesque
 - Tragedy
 - Prose
- Definition: A categorization of literary works that includes all forms of literature. Divides into subgenres and is more of a vague guideline to classify literary works.

Plot

It's like a rollercoaster!

- **Pronunciation:** plät
- Example: Plot structure

- Exposition
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action
- Resolution/Denouement



- **Note** Not all literary works have a set plot structure. Some may be randomized and not chronological.
 - Example: *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
- *Definition:* The basic structure a story bases itself upon. An outline, or storyline of the story.

Unity

- Pronunciation: yü-nə-tē
- *Example:*
 - *The Odyssey* and *Iliad* by Homer
- *Definition: An ordering of all elements in a work of art or literature so that each contributes to a unified aesthetic effect.*

★ ALLITERATION ★

(al·lit·er·a·tion) [uh-lit-uh-rey-shuh n]

Examples:

• Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Two Kinds:

• Assonance:

- Ex) Do you like blue?
- The oo sound

• Consonance:

- Ex) pitter patter.
- The p and -ter sounds

Definition: (n.)

1. The commencement of two or more stressed syllables of a word group either with the same consonant sound or sound group. Usually at the beginning of words; common in poetry.

★ EPIPHANY ★

(e·piph·a·ny) [i-pif-uh-nee]

Examples:

- The “eureka” moment.
- When you do a math problem and do not understand it but all of a sudden realize how to work it out.

Definition: (n.) (from Greek epiphaneia)

1. An appearance or manifestation especially of a deity.
2. A sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence/experience.

★ MOTIF ★

(mo·tif) [moh-teeef]

Examples:

- Motif's in *The Great Gatsby* are **geography** and **weather**.
- Motif's in *The Catcher in the Rye* are **relationships** and **lying**.

Motif vs. Theme:

- Theme= idea set forth by the text.
- Motif= A recurring element that symbolizes that idea/theme. It is the central idea behind a theme.

Definition: (n.)

1. A recurring subject, theme, idea, etc. especially in a literary, artistic, or musical work. The motif helps to develop the major themes.

★ SOLILOQUY ★

(so·lil·o·quy) [suh-lil-uh-kwee]

Examples:

- Juliet's "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo..." speech is a soliloquy.
- Hamlet's "To be, or not to be: that is the question..." speech is a soliloquy.

Soliloquy vs. Monologue

- Soliloquy= to **ONE** character or to oneself.
- Monologue= to **MANY** characters or the audience.

Definition: (n.)

1. The act of talking while or as if alone. Divulging one's inner thoughts and feelings, often used as a device in drama.
2. An utterance or discourse by a person who is talking to himself or herself or is disregarding or oblivious to any hearers present.

Parallelism

EX's

Not Parallel: Joe enjoys skipping, swimming, and to ride an airplane.

Parallel: Joe enjoys skipping, swimming, and riding airplanes

Not Parallel: the actor was asked to memorize his lines quickly, accurately, and in a detailed manner.

Parallel: the actor was asked to memorize his lines quickly, accurately and thoroughly.

. Parallel structure is the usage of similar patterns of words to show that multiple ideas have equal importance. This happens at the word, phrase, and clause level. The common way to join parallel structures is using coordinating conjunctions like "and" or "or."

Being put simply, Parallelism is used to make sure that all of your verb tenses match in a sequence.

Pronunciation: pa-rə- le- li-zəm

THEME

Theme is used to show the morals or thoughts that the author is trying to convey to his readers.

A commonly known theme of To Kill A Mockingbird is the loss of innocence

The theme is discovered by analysis by the reader. The reader must pick up on key points and figure out what the author is trying to convey.

The Merrriam-Webster definition is:

1 a : a subject or topic of discourse or of artistic representation <guilt and punishment is the theme of the story> b : a specific and distinctive quality, characteristic, or concern <the campaign has lacked a theme>

Pronunciation: \ thēm\

Archetype

The Bible is often considered an Archetype to many other religious writings because so much is based on its contents.

Another example of an archetype in literature is characters. Romeo and Juliet are great examples of “star-crossed lovers” that can be found in many other future works of literature.

The Definition of an Archetype is:

“the original pattern or model of which all things of the same type are representations or copies”

Archetype: The Iliad and the Odyssey

Not an Archetype: Paradise Lost

Pronunciation: är'ki -tip'

Figurative Language

Figurative Language

EXAMPLES:

- Simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, etc.
- The tree waved its fingers in the brisk autumn wind

DEFINITION

- **fig·u·ra·tive** (fĭg'yər-ə-tĭv) _
adj.
 - Based on or making use of figures of speech; metaphorical: *figurative language*.
 - Containing many figures of speech; ornate.
- Represented by a figure or resemblance; symbolic or emblematic.
- Of or relating to artistic representation by means of animal or human figures.

Connotation

Example:

A home is often a place of warmth,
comfort and affection.

Definition: Suggesting the meaning
of something, apart from its primary
meaning.

Irony

Example:

In Life of Pi by Yann Martel, there is a storm that Pi thinks is going to save his life. "This is a miracle. This is an outbreak of divinity." (p. 295) It is ironic that a storm is portrayed as a bad thing, but it is now saving his life.

Definition: Using words to convey a meaning that is opposite of it's literal meaning.

Round Character

Examples: Huck Finn in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, Pi in Life of Pi by Yann Martel and Tom Joad in Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

Definition: A major character in a work of fiction who is changed by a conflict that they encounter. They are described in detail and are more fully developed than other characters. Also known as a dynamic character.

Sarcasm [sahr-kaz-uhm]

Example – When a Tralfamadorian sees a corpse, all he thinks is that the dead person is in bad condition in that particular moment, but that the same person is just fine in plenty of other moments. Now, when I myself hear that somebody is dead, I simply shrug and say what the Tralfamadorians say about dead people, which is ‘so it goes.’ (*Slaughterhouse Five*)

Definition – An ironic taunt or remark, often satirical, intended to mock or ridicule someone.

Metaphor [met-uh-for]

Example – A mighty fortress is our god.

Definition – Comparing two things saying that one *is* the other, *not* using “like” or “as.” Not to be taken literal.

Diction [dik-shuhn]

Example – “So it goes” or “And so on” in
Slaughterhouse Five.

Definition – Choice and use of words in
speech or writing. A style in speaking or
writing.

Ambiguity

The end of Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" is full of ambiguity, the reader is left to draw their own conclusions about what happens.

Pronunciation: \ am-bə- gyü-ə-tē\

Function: *noun*

Date: 15th century

1 a : the quality or state of being ambiguous especially in meaning **b** : an ambiguous word or expression

2 : uncertainty

Euphemism

Euthenasia is a euphemism for killing something.

Pronunciation: \ yü-fə- mi-zəm \

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Greek *euphēmismos*, from *euphēmos* auspicious, sounding good, from *eu-* + *phēmē* speech, from *phanai* to speak — more at [ban](#)

Date: circa 1681

: the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant; *also* : the expression so substituted

Onomatopoeia

“You give her one good crack,
she’s snap raght off. Den
where’s your hax-ead flying
t’rough de hair?”

-Robert Frost The Ax-helve

Pronunciation: \ ä-nə- mä-tə- pē-ə, - ma-\

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Late Latin, from Greek *onomatopoiia*, from *onomat-*, *onoma* name + *poiein* to make — more at [poet](#)

Date: circa 1577

1 : the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as *buzz*, *hiss*)

2 : the use of words whose sound suggests the sense

Style

Jane Austen wrote with humor and romanticism.

Elinor and her mother rose up in amazement at their entrance, and while the eyes of both were fixed on him with an evident wonder and a secret admiration which equally sprung from his appearance, he apologised for his intrusion by relating its cause, in a manner so frank and so graceful, that his person, which was uncommonly handsome, received additional charms from his voice and expression. Had he been even old, ugly, and vulgar, the gratitude and kindness of Mrs. Dashwood would have been secured by any act of attention to her child; but the influence of youth, beauty, and elegance, gave an interest to the action which came home to her feelings.

George Orwell wrote with little description and an air of warning.

The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a colored poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a meter wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black mustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine, and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran.

Pronunciation: \ stī(-ə)\

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *stile, style*, from Latin *stilus* spike, stem, stylus, style of writing; perhaps akin to Latin *instigare* to goad — more at [stick](#)

Date: 14th century

1 : [designation](#), [title](#)

2 a : a distinctive manner of expression (as in writing or speech) <writes with more attention to [style](#) than to content> <the flowery style of 18th century prose> **b** : a distinctive manner or custom of behaving or conducting oneself <the formal style of the court> <his style is abrasive>; *also* : a particular mode of living <in high style> **c** : a particular manner or technique by which something is done, created, or performed <a unique style of horseback riding> <the classical style of dance>

3 a : [stylus](#) **b** : [gnomon](#) **1b c** : the filiform usually elongated part of the pistil bearing a stigma at its apex — see [flower illustration](#) **d** : a slender elongated process (as a bristle) on an animal

4 : a distinctive quality, form, or type of something <a new [dress](#) style> <the Greek style of architecture>

5 a : the state of being popular : [fashion](#) <clothes that are always in style> **b** : [fashionable](#) elegance **c** : beauty, grace, or ease of manner or technique <an awkward moment she handled with style>

6 : a convention with respect to spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and typographic arrangement and display followed in writing or printing

Allusion (uh-loo-zhuh n)

- Example #1: In the Hunchback of Notre Dame, the gargoyle says, "*Fly my pretties, fly...*" This is an allusion to the *Wizard of Oz*.
- Example #2: "*As the cave's roof collapsed, he was swallowed up in the dust like Jonah, and only his frantic scrabbling behind a wall of rock indicated that there was anyone still alive.*" This is an allusion to when Jonah is swallowed alive by the whale.

Definition - An indirect reference in literature, and is usually incidental.

Epithet

(ep-uh-thet)

- Examples: Alexander the Great, William the Conqueror; a biological epithet consists of the genus name and species name of an organism.

Definition - A word or phrase used to characterize a person or thing.

Novel (nov-uh l)

- A novel is longer than a novella; a novella is a fictional prose narrative that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.
- They are generally around 40,000 words or more.
- Examples: *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson, *Sundays at Tiffany's* by James Patterson, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, and *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult.

Definition - A relatively long fictional prose narrative with a considerably complex plot.

Stock Character

(stok kar-ik-ter)

- Stock characters come in many forms, including inanimate objects, sidekicks, neighbors, a comical person or a wicked stepmother.
- Examples: Marmeladov from *Crime and Punishment*, Dr. Watson from *Sherlock Holmes*, "Pap" from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and The Cowardly Lion from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Definition - A very basic character who is immediately accepted by the reader and requires no development by the writer. They are usually stereotyped, and their personalities are based on widely recognized cultural types.

PROTAGONIST

- ORIGINALLY MEANT “FIRST” IN EARLY GREEK DRAMA.
- THE LEADING FIGURE IN A LITERARY WORK
- USAGE
 - IN *HAMLET*, BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, HAMLET IS THE PROTAGONIST, AS HE IS THE CHARACTER FOLLOWED IN THE PLAY.
- THE CHIEF CHARACTER IN A PLAY, STORY, OR FILM.

COMEDY OF MANNERS

- ALSO KNOWN AS REALISTIC COMEDY
- THIS TYPE IS BASED ON THE MANNERS AND CONVENTIONS OF A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY LIKE THE ELIZABETHAN AND JACOBEAN TIMES.
- POPULAR IN THE 20TH CENTURY.
- **COMEDY THAT SARCASTICALLY PORTRAYS THE LIFESTYLES OF A PARTICULAR CLASS OR SET**

HYPERBOLE

- IT IS USED TO HEIGHTEN EFFECT, OR USED TO PRODUCE COMIC EFFECT.
- *MACBETH* USES HYPERBOLE:
 - *“NO: THIS MY HAND WILL RATHER
THE MULTITUDINOUS SEAS INCARNADINE,
MAKING THE GREEN ONE RED.*
- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH IN WHICH EXAGGERATION IS USED WITHOUT THE INTENT OF LITERAL PERSUASION.**

Concrete language

noun

ex): the sky was a depressing grey and the wind whipped sharply.

These words are concrete because they are experienced through our senses. The grey coloration is seen through the eyes and the wind is felt on the skin.

Involves words that refer to tangible, qualities or characteristics, things we know through our senses. Words and phrases like "102degrees," "obese Siamese cat" are concrete. Does not describe ideas or qualities.

Irony

noun

ex): She said, “How nice!” when I said I had to work all weekend.

This an example of irony because the lady actually means the opposite of the literal meaning of what she is saying.

This is an example of irony because the speaker actually feels the opposite of what they say.

When a reader is aware of reality that differs from a characters perception of reality. Contradicts the literal meaning of the phrase

Round Character

noun

Ex): Heathcliff, Anna Karenina, Frodo and Huck Finn are all round characters from classic literature.

The reader gains a vivid sense of their emotions, motivations, and histories as we read their stories.

a character in fiction whose personality, background, motives, and other features are fully delineated by the author.

Unity

noun

Ex): the Shakespearean plays, “Othello”, “Hamlet”, and “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” are examples of unity.

These plays contain most if not all of the ‘three unities’ from the Aristotelian aesthetics. They take place in one place in most cases, and have a single plot with a beginning, middle and end.

A work of fiction or nonfiction is said to be unified if all the parts are related to one central idea or organizing principle. Thus, unity is dependent upon coherence.

[per-son-uh-fi-key-shuh n]

Personification

“My thoughts swung wildly.” (*Life of Pi* 111)

Martel uses the action word swung to describe his scattered thoughts.

Personification is giving human traits to non living objects.

Qualities, feelings, actions and characteristics can be used to describe things, colors, qualities and ideas.

Kelsey Pitschel 5th hour

Tragic Flaw

[traj-ik flaw]

“From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life,
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents’ strife...”

(Romeo and Juliet Prologue 5-8).

In the prologue, Shakespeare is foreshadowing the dependence on fate. This is Romeo’s downfall because of his lack of ability to be responsible for his own actions, which ultimately leads to the death of himself and his “star-crossed lover”.

A **tragic flaw** is a personality trait of a main character that leads to his downfall.

Kelsey Pitschel

Anaphora

[uh-naf-er-uh]

“After the torchlight red on sweaty faces
After the frosty silence in the gardens
After the agony in stony places” (*The Wasteland* by T. S. Eliot, Section V)

‘After the’ is used repeatedly for each line.

Anaphora is the repetition of a word or phrase used at the start of consecutive clauses or sentences.

Kelsey Pitschel

Exposition [ek-spuh-zish-uh n]

“Robert Cohn was a member, through his father, of one of the richest Jewish families in New York, and through his mother of one of the oldest...In Paris, Robert Cohn had two friends, Braddocks and myself. Braddocks was his literary friend. I was his tennis friend.” (*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway)

This sentence is part of the exposition in the opening pages. It gives some information of the main characters and the setting.

The **exposition** is the opening information of the literary work that introduces the main elements of literature such as background information, setting, characters and theme.

Kelsey Pitschel

Oxymoron

[ok-si-mohr-on]

“...As one great furnace flamed; yet from those flames
No light; but rather **darkness visible**
Served only to discover sights of woe...” (*Paradise Lost* by
John Milton)

‘Darkness visible’ is an example of an oxymoron.

An **oxymoron** is the combination of contradictory words.

Kelsey Pitschel

Catharsis

- Pronunciation: *kuh-thahr-sis*
- *Oedipus Rex*: Oedipus finds out that he has killed his father and married his mother. He proceeds to gouge his own eyes out with his mother's adornments.
- An emotional discharge that brings about a moral or spiritual renewal or welcome relief from tension and anxiety.
- According to Aristotle, catharsis is the marking feature and ultimate end of any tragic artistic work.

Freight-Train

- Pronunciation: freyt-treyn
- “There Was A Child Went Forth” by Walt Whitman:
- “The early lilacs became part of this child,
And grass, and white and red morning-glories, and white and red clover, and the song of the phoebe-bird,
And the Third-month lambs, and the sow’s pink-faint litter, and the mare’s foal, and the cow’s calf,
And the noisy brood of the barn-yard, or by the mire of the pond-side,
And the fish suspending themselves so curiously below there--
and the beautiful curious liquid,
And the water-plants with their graceful flat heads--all became part of him.”
- A sentence consisting of three or more very short independent clauses joined by conjunctions.

Personification

- Pronunciation: per-son-*uh*-fi-key-shuh n
- Particularly common in poetry, but appears in nearly all types of artful writing.
- *Romeo and Juliet*: “Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon.”
- A trope (a figure of speech with an unexpected twist in the meaning of words) in which abstractions, animals, ideas, and inanimate objects are given human characteristics, traits, abilities, or reactions.

Understatement

- Pronunciation: uhn-der-steyt-muh nt
- In which the writer deliberately makes a situation/idea/person etc. seem less important or serious than it is.
- Usually has an ironic effect, and sometimes may be used for comedic purposes.
- *The Great Gatsby*: “He’s just a man named Gatsby.”

Assonance

⇒ Pronunciation: (äs'ə-nəns)

⇒ Examples: "Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks."
(Romeo and Juliet, V, iii)

Sweep – Sleep

⇒ Definition: Similarity in sound between inner vowels in adjacent words.

Flat Character

⇒ Pronunciation: (flat kar-ik-ter)

⇒ Examples: Phoebe Watson in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Phoebe does not develop within the book.

⇒ Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*, he stays unchanged.

⇒ Definition: A character who does not change throughout the book.

Pathos

⇒Pronunciation: (pey-thos)

⇒Examples: Anthony addressing the public after the murder of Caesar in Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare.

⇒Cordelia's acceptance of defeat in King Lear by William Shakespeare.

⇒Definition: A feeling of pity or compassion.

Tragedy

⇒ Pronunciation: (trăj"ī-dē)

⇒ Examples: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. In the end both Romeo and Juliet die.

⇒ *Othello* dies in the end of *Othello* by William Shakespeare.

⇒ Definition: Shows the downfall of the protagonist.

Apostrophe (')-

Pronunciation- ə-pɒs'trə-fē, a-pos- tra-fee

•Use-

- Form the possessive of nouns
- Show omission of letters
- To indicate certain plurals of lowercase letters

•Examples-

- the boy's hat
- Contractions (don't, won't, he'll, it's), years ('93 instead of 1993)
- Nita's mother constantly stressed minding one's p's and q's.

Fiction

Pronunciation- fic·tion (fɪk'shən)

- Examples-
 - *Harry Potter series, Lord of the Rings trilogy, Candide, Catch-22, Frankenstein, etc.*
- Definition-
 - Literature which is not based on fact.
 - Created mainly by the imagination though may contain historical settings or events.
 - Novels, short stories, novellas

Paradox-

Pronunciation- pǎr'ə-dۆks', pair-a-docks

- **Examples-**

- "The silence of midnight, to speak truly, though apparently a paradox, rung in my ears" – *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- "Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours." –Yogi Berra
- "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded." – Yogi Berra
- "There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, which specified that a concern for one's own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to he was sane and had to. Yossarian was moved very deeply by the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-22 and let out a respectful whistle." –*Catch-22*

- **Definition-**

- A statement of group of statements that is self-contradictory but may be true based on valid deduction from acceptable premises.
- A statement contradictory to perceived opinion
- An apparent contradiction that expresses a non-dual truth

Syntax

Pronunciation- sĭn'tăks', sin-tax

- Definition-
 - The study of grammatical rules and sentence structure.
 - A collection of grammatical rules
 - The pattern of formation of sentences or phrases in a language

Pun [puhn]

Examples from Literature:

- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll:
“And how many hours a day did you do lessons?” said Alice, in a hurry to change the subject.
“Ten hours the first day,” said the Mock Turtle, “nine the next, and so on.”
“What a curious plan!” exclaimed Alice.
“That's the reason they're called lessons,” the Gryphon remarked: “because they lessen from day to day.”
- Romeo and Juliet (III.i.101), the dying Mercutio puns, “Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man.”

Definition: A phrase that deliberately exploits confusion between similar-sounding words for humorous effect. In simple words it means that the author or a story, poem, play, etc. uses words to create double meanings in his work. These "double meanings" are a play on words that is usually meant to be a joke

Comic Relief (kom' ik ri lēf)

Examples from Literature:

- Shakespeare's drunken porter in Macbeth:
Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were porter of hell gate, he should have old turning the key. Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of Belzebub? Here's a farmer that hanged himself on the expectation of plenty. Come in time! Have napkins enow about you; here you'll sweat for't. Knock, knock! Who's there, in the other devil's name? Faith, here's an equivocator, that could swear in both the scales against either scale; who committed treason enough for God's sake, yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in, equivocator! Knock, knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's an English tailor come hither for stealing out of a French hose. Come in, tailor. Here you may roast your goose. Knock, knock! Never at quiet! What are you? But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further. I had thought to have let in some of all professions that go the primrose way to the everlasting bonfire. Anon, anon! I pray you remember the porter.
Act II, scene iii : lines 1 – 19

Definition: A humorous scene or incident that alleviates tension in an otherwise serious work. In many instances these moments enhance the thematic significance of the story in addition to providing laughter.

Image (im'ij)

Examples from Literature:

- “The late afternoon sky bloomed in the window for a moment like the blue honey of the Mediterranean .” The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- “She was a pale blonde with a skin like clean and polished bone.” East Of Eden by John Steinbeck.
- “A shutter, like the leathern eyelid of a lizard, flickered over the intensity of his gaze...” To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf.

Definition: A word, phrase, or figure of speech (especially a simile or a metaphor) that addresses the senses, suggesting mental pictures of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, feelings, or actions. Images offer sensory impressions to the reader and also convey emotions and moods through their verbal pictures

Antithesis

[an-tith-uh-sis]

Examples:

- “My only **love** sprung from my only **hate**.” –Romeo Montague
- Bernard Marx and Heimholtz Watson in *Brave New World*

Definition: Counter preposition or point to another character or idea in a novel

Farce

(/fars/,)

Examples:

The characters of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Definition: A style of humor marked by broad improbabilities with little regard to regularity or method

Parable

[par-uh-buhl]

Examples

-Fables

-Proverbs

Definition: a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.

Synecdoche

[si-*nek-duh*-kee]

Examples:

-A pair of **hands** (A worker)

-Two **heads** (people)

Definition: a figure of speech in which part of something is used to represent a whole

'Twas sooner when the cricket went
Than when the winter *came*,
Yet that pathetic pendulum
Keeps esoteric *time*.

(Emily Dickinson, "'T was later when the summer went")

Repetition of consonants (letters other than vowels) with a large emphasis when saying the last letter(s) in a word.

Latin: Agree, smooth

Consonance

kóns-sə-nəns

"What we know partakes in no small measure of the nature of what has so happily been called the unutterable or ineffable, so that any attempt to utter or eff it is doomed to fail, doomed, doomed to fail."
(Samuel Beckett)

A figure of speech in which a positive is expressed by negating its opposite.
Latin: simplicity

Litotes

lahy-tuh-teez

"Unruly, wayward, frolicsome, critical, parasitic, at times perverse, malicious, cynical, scornful, unstable--it is at once pervasive yet recalcitrant, base yet impenetrable. **Satire** is the stranger that lives in the basement."
(George Austin Test, *Satire: Spirit and Art*, University Press of Florida, 1991)

A form of irony, ridicule, or humor to depict human vice, stupidity, or foolishness.

Latin: "Mishmash"

Satire

sat-ahy-uhr