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Glossary

Common Core Curriculum Maps ELA/Grade 9 – Grade 12

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Grade 9 – Grade 12

absolute phrase A phrase that, instead of modifying a particular word, acts like an adverb to the rest of the sentence in which it appears

absurdist Plays that are clearly untrue or unreasonable and that refer to the conflict between the human tendency to seek inherent meaning in life and the human inability to find any

accuracy The quality or state of being correct or precise

adjectival phrase An adjectival phrase or adjective phrase is a group of words in a sentence with an adjective which describes the noun

adverbial clause An adverbial clause is a clause that functions as an adverb. In other words, it contains subject (explicit or implied) and predicate, and it modifies a verb

adverbial phrase A phrase that collectively modifies a verb, adjective, another adverb, or a prepositional phrase

advocacy Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy

advocate (v.) To publicly recommend or support

aesthetic Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty

Age of Enlightenment The era in Western philosophy and intellectual, scientific, and cultural life, centered upon the 18th century, in which reason was advocated as the primary source for legitimacy and authority

Allegory A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one

Alliteration The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words

Allusion An expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference

ambiguity Uncertainty or inexactness of meaning in language

analogy A comparison between two things, typically on the basis of their structure and for the purpose of explanation or clarification

analysis Detailed examination of the elements or structure of something, typically as a basis for discussion or interpretation

analytical Relating to or using analysis or logical reasoning

analyze Examine methodically and in detail the constitution or structure of (something, esp. information), typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation

anaphora A rhetorical device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the beginnings of neighboring clauses, thereby lending them emphasis

Annotation A note of explanation or comment added to a text or diagram

Antagonist A person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary

anti-hero A protagonist whose character is at least in some regards conspicuously contrary to that of the archetypal hero

antithesis A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else

aphorism A pithy observation that contains a general truth, such as, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

apostrophe An exclamatory passage in a speech or poem addressed to a person (typically one who is dead or absent) or thing (typically one that is personified)

appeal A serious or urgent request, typically one made to the public

archetype A very typical example of a certain person or thing; an original that has been imitated; a recurrent symbol or motif in literature, art, or mythology

argument An organized set of reasons that together aim to persuade others that an action or idea is right or wrong

Arthurian literature Literature written about King Arthur and his court

aside A remark or passage by a character in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but unheard by the other characters in the play

assonance In poetry, the repetition of the sound of a vowel in non-rhyming stressed syllables near enough to each other for the echo to be discernible (e.g., penitence, reticence)

audience The assembled spectators or listeners at a public event, such as a play, movie, concert, or meeting

ballad A poem or song narrating a story in short stanzas. Traditional ballads are typically of unknown authorship, having been passed on orally from one generation to the next as part of the folk culture

Beat generation A group of American post-WWII writers who came to prominence in the 1950s, as well as the cultural phenomena that they both documented and inspired; a movement of young people in the 1950s who rejected conventional society

bias Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair

Biblical allusion References to stories, characters, or events from the Bible; these references may deal with circumstances as familiar as "the mark of Cain," "the fall from paradise," "the tribulations of Job," or "destruction by flood or fire." A character may have the "

Bildungsroman A novel which focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from youth to adulthood with change and development of central importance.

blank verse Verse without rhyme, esp. that which uses iambic pentameter

blog A type of personal website on which an individual records opinions, links to other sites, etc. on a regular basis

brainstorming The process of planning and generating ideas

Caesura A pause near the middle of a line

caricature A picture, description, or imitation of a person or thing in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect

central idea The main point of a piece of writing, often stated in, but sometimes inferred from, a thesis statement or topic sentence

character foil A character who contrasts with another character (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight various features of that other character's personality, throwing these characteristics into sharper focus

characterization To describe or portray the qualities or peculiarities of a character; to depict either through direct or indirect means

chorus (Aristotelian) A group of performers who comment on the main action, typically speaking and moving together

citation A quotation from or reference to a book, paper, or author, esp. in a scholarly work; or a listing of the source next to the quotation

claim An assertion or strong statement that something is true or in existence

climax The most action-packed, exciting, or important point in a narrative

cognate A word that has the same derivation as another; from the same original word or root

coherence The quality of being logical and consistent

colloquial/colloquialism Language used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal

colon A punctuation mark (:) indicating that a writer is introducing a quotation or list of items, separating two clauses of which the second expands or illustrates the first; a statement of proportion, etc.

Colonialism The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically

comedy A play characterized by its humorous or satirical tone and its depiction of amusing people or incidents, in which the characters ultimately triumph over adversity

complex character A character that is deeply developed and that exhibits a variety of different, sometimes even contradictory traits

conceit A fanciful expression in writing or speech; an elaborate metaphor

conclusion The ending, or summing-up of an argument or report

concrete detail Specific details that form the backbone or core of a body paragraphs; facts, examples, illustrations, proof, evidence

Conflict An internal or external struggle, disagreement, or fight

conjunctive adverb An adverb that connects two clauses; conjunctive adverbs show cause and effect, sequence, contrast, comparison, or other relationships

connotation An idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning

connotative meaning The emotional overtones, related feelings, and associations that cluster around a term

consonance The recurrence of similar sounds, esp. consonants, in close proximity

contested language Terms that have been used differently over time and across groups; meanings have been debated, subject to change, and/or reclaimed

convention The codes or basic principles that guide spelling, grammar, or literary forms

convergent Coming closer together, esp. in characteristics or ideas

counterclaim A claim made to rebut a previous claim

couplet Two lines of verse, usually in the same meter and joined by rhyme, that form a unit

credibility The quality of being trusted and believed in; the quality of being convincing or believable

deconstruction A philosophical theory of criticism (usually of literature or film) that seeks to expose deep-seated contradictions in a work by delving below its surface meaning

deductive Characterized by the inference of particular instances from a general law

denotation The literal or primary meaning of a word, in contrast to the feelings or ideas that the word suggests

denouement Concluding scenes where the story elements are finished and the characters' status after the climax is revealed

dependent clause A subordinate clause: a clause in a complex sentence that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence and that functions within the sentence as a noun or adjective or adverb

Determinism The doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will

dialect A particular form of a language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group

dialogue Conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or movie

diction The choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing

didactic literature Texts that are designed specifically to instruct or convince a reader of a particular point or lesson

digital media Refers to any type of information in digital format including computer-generated text, graphics and animations, as well as photographs, animation, sound and video

direct characterization An explicit description of the character's traits or qualities; a clear and direct statement of what the character is like

discrepancy A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts

distorted evidence Evidence used in an argument that has been taken out of context or only presents partial context

divergent Tending to be different or develop in different directions

double entendre A word or phrase open to two interpretations, one of which is usually risqué or indecent

dramatic foil A character who contrasts with another character (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight various features of that other character's personality, throwing these characteristics into sharper focus

dramatic irony Occurs when the meaning of the situation is understood by the audience but not by the characters in the play

dramatic monologue A poem in the form of a speech or narrative by an imagined person, in which the speaker inadvertently reveals aspects of their character while describing a particular situation or series of events to a silent audience

dynamic character A character whose personality changes or evolves over the course of a narrative

dystopia An imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one

editing To search for errors and make corrections in a piece of writing

editorial A newspaper article written by or on behalf of an editor that gives an opinion on a topical issue

elegy A poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead

Elizabethan Era a time associated with Queen Elizabeth I's reign (1558–1603) and is often considered to be the golden age in English history. It was the height of the English Renaissance and saw the flowering of English poetry, music and literature.

enjambment The continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza

epic poem A long poem, typically one derived from ancient oral tradition, narrating the deeds and adventures of heroic or legendary figures or the history of a nation

epithet A term used to characterize a person or thing; a term used as a descriptive substitute for the name or title of a person; an abusive or contemptuous word or phrase

equivocation The use of ambiguous language to conceal the truth or to avoid committing oneself; prevarication

ethos Denotes the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, a nation or an ideology; an appeal based on the fundamental values of a person, people, culture, or movement

etymology The study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history

euphemism A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing

evidence Facts, statistics or researched information that can prove that something is true

exaggerated evidence Evidence that represents something as being larger, greater, better, or worse than it actually is by taking out of context or not presenting a full account

explanatory text Texts that serve to explain or clarify a concept

exposition The part of a play or work of fiction in which the background to the main conflict is introduced; a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory

extended metaphor A metaphor that continues throughout multiple sentences, lines, or parts of a text. It is often developed at great length, occurring frequently in or throughout a work, and are especially effective in poems and fiction.

external conflict A struggle occurring outside the mind of a character; a struggle against another character or outside force

figurative language Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words; states something that is not literally true in order to create an effect

figurative meaning The connotative meaning of a word as opposed to what the word literally means

first-person point-of-view Narration from the perspective of "I" or "We." Narrators may be involved with the action or may simply observe it; they may also be reliable or unreliable

flashback A scene in a movie, novel, etc., set in a time earlier than the main story; a transition (in literary or theatrical works or films) to an earlier event or scene that interrupts the normal chronological development of the story

flat character A character who is presented as having few, though sometimes dominant, traits, and who does not change much throughout the course of a story

folk narrative Popular or village stories passed orally from generation to generation through verbal telling -- often a mixture of fact and fancy, allegory and myth, legend and symbolism, conveying lessons about life, character and conduct.

foreshadowing A warning or indication of (a future event)

formal style Style and language that is generally used in official written communication or when delivering speeches or presentations

formal tone The tone that is generally used in official written communication or when delivering speeches or presentations

frame story A narrative that is a framework for another story or stories. The frame usually explains or sets up the interior story; often the narrative returns to the frame situation to provide closure at the end

Gothic literature A genre of writing preoccupied with mysteries, murder, villainy and the supernatural, often set in desolate and ancient landscapes such as castles and churches; can include novels, poetry or short stories

Great Migration The Great Migration was the movement of 2 million African Americans out of the Southern United States to the Midwest, Northeast and West from 1910 to 1930

Harlem Renaissance A dynamic period of writing, poetry, music, and art among black Americans, centered in Harlem, and during the 1920s and 1930s. The Renaissance included figures such as Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, Sterling Brown, Zora Neale Hurston, Jessie

Harvard outline A structured outline that employs Roman numerals and a system of lettering, numbering, and indentation

heroic couplet Two successive lines of rhymed poetry in iambic pentameter, so called for its use in the composition of epic poetry in the 17th and 18th centuries.

historical allusion A reference to events, people, or eras of the past

hubris Excessive pride or self-confidence; (in Greek tragedy) excessive pride toward or defiance of the gods, leading to nemesis

hyperbole Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

hyphenation The splitting of a word across lines, as an aid to uniform line breaking

iamb A metrical foot consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable

iconography The visual images, symbols, or modes of representation collectively associated with a person, cult, or movement

idyll An extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque episode or scene, typically an idealized or unsustainable one; a short description in verse or prose of a picturesque scene or incident, esp. in rustic life

imagery Visually descriptive or figurative language, esp. in a literary work

Imagism A movement in early 20th-century English and American poetry that sought clarity of expression through the use of precise images

implication The conclusion that can be drawn from something, although it is not explicitly stated; a likely consequence of something

in medias res The literary and artistic narrative technique wherein the relation of a story begins either at the mid-point or at the conclusion, rather than at the beginning

independent clause A main clause: a clause in a complex sentence that can stand alone as a complete sentence

indirect characterization A form of revealing a character's traits that requires the reader to infer a character's qualities based on dialogue and action; readers are shown, not told, what the character is like

Individualism The habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant; a social theory favoring freedom of action for individuals over collective or state control

inductive Characterized by the inference of general laws from particular instances

informal English Language that may not adhere to the rules of Standard American English, or which may include slang; generally used amongst people who are very familiar with one another

informal tone The tone generally used between people who are very familiar with one another; a casual tone

informative text A text that is expository or explanatory in nature

inquiry An investigation or search for knowledge

internal conflict A struggle that takes place within the protagonist's mind to reach some new understanding or decision

invective Insulting, abusive, or highly critical language

irony Incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs

Jacobean Era Refers to the period in English and Scottish history that coincides with the reign of King James I (1603– 1625) of England, who was also James VI of Scotland

Jazz Age The 1920s in the US characterized as a period of carefree hedonism, wealth, freedom, and youthful exuberance, reflected in the novels of writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald

justify To show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for; to demonstrate or show to be right by providing evidence or proof

katharsis Greek word, usually translated as "purgation," which Aristotle used in his definition of tragedy. For some, it refers to the vicarious cleansing of certain emotions in the audience through their representation onstage.

kenning A compound expression in Old English and Old Norse poetry with metaphorical meaning, e.g., oar-steed = ship

limited narration The narrator knows only the thoughts, feelings, and actions of one character

literary allusion A figure of speech that makes a reference to, or representation of, a place, event, or character from a literary work, either directly or by implication

local color The customs, manner of speech, dress, or other typical features of a place or period that contribute to its particular character

logical fallacy An improper argumentation in reasoning resulting in a misconception or presumption. By accident or design, fallacies may exploit emotional triggers in the listener or interlocutor (appeal to emotion), or take advantage of social relationships between people

logos Originally a word meaning "word," "speech," "account," or "reason"; in argumentation, an appeal based on logic

Lost Generation The generation reaching maturity during and just after World War I, a high proportion of whose men were killed during those years; a term first used by Gertrude Stein to describe the post-World War I generation of American writers: men and women haunted by

lyric poetry A short poem with one speaker (not necessarily the poet) who expresses thought and feeling

magical realism An aesthetic style or genre of fiction in which magical elements are blended into a realistic atmosphere in order to access a deeper understanding of reality.

Medieval literature Encompasses essentially all written works available in Europe and beyond during the Middle Ages (encompassing the one thousand years from the fall of the Western Roman Empire ca. AD 500 to the beginning of the Florentine Renaissance in the late 15th century)

melodrama A sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions

meta-fiction A type of fiction that self-consciously addresses the devices of fiction, exposing the fictional illusion; metafiction uses techniques to draw attention to itself as a work of art, while exposing the "truth" of a story

metaphor A comparison between two seemingly different things that does not use like or as; the use of a word or phrase to refer to something that it isn't, invoking a direct similarity between the word or phrase used and the thing described, but without the words

metaphysical poetry A term coined by the poet and critic Samuel Johnson to describe a loose group of British lyric poets of the 17th century, who shared an interest in metaphysical concerns and a common way of investigating them, and whose work was characterized by inventive

metaphysics The branch of philosophy that deals with the first principles of things, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, substance, cause, identity, time, and space

meter The rhythm of a piece of poetry, determined by the number and length of feet in a line

metonymy The substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example suit for business executive, or the track for horse racing

MLA style A set of rules and guidelines for citing references as well as preparing and submitting manuscripts for publication from the Modern Languages Association

Modernism A set of cultural tendencies and array of associated cultural movements, originally arising from wide-scale and far-reaching changes to Western society in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the activities and output of those who felt the "traditional

mood The atmosphere or general feeling that is created in a story, work of art, or piece of music

motif A usually recurring salient thematic thread (as in the arts) that connects elements in episodic plots

motivation The reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way

mythological allusion A figure of speech that makes a reference to, or representation of, a place, event, or character from a myth, either directly or by implication

narrative mode set of methods the author of a literary, theatrical, cinematic, or musical story uses to convey the plot to the audience

Naturalism Naturalism was a literary movement taking place from 1880s to 1940s that used detailed realism to suggest that social conditions, heredity, and environment had inescapable force in shaping human character

Neoclassical Neoclassicism is the name given to quite distinct movements in the decorative and visual arts, literature, theatre, music, and architecture that draw upon Western classical art and culture (usually that of Ancient Greece or Ancient Rome)

neologism A newly coined word or expression

nonlinear narrative A narrative technique, sometimes used in literature, film, hypertext websites and other narratives, wherein events are portrayed out of chronological order

norm A standard or pattern, esp. of social behavior, that is typical or expected of a group

noun clause A subordinate clause which functions as a subject or object of the main clause

noun phrase A word or group of words that functions in a sentence as subject, object, or prepositional object

nuance A subtle difference in meaning, expression, opinion, or attitude

objective summary To provide an account that is not influenced by personal feelings or opinions

objective tone Undistorted by emotion or personal bias; seemingly neutral in considering and representing facts

ode A lyric poem in the form of an address to a particular subject, often elevated in style or manner and written in varied or irregular meter

omniscient narration An all-knowing narrator; a narrator who has a detailed and full knowledge of the story's events and characters (from varying perspectives)

onomatopoeia The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (e.g., cuckoo, sizzle); the use of such words for rhetorical effect

opposing claim An assertion or strong statement that is in conflict or competition with another claim

oral tradition Customs, opinions, beliefs, and history passed from generation to generation by means of conversation or story telling

oxymoron A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction (e.g., faith unfaithful kept him falsely true)

paradox A statement or proposition that, despite sound (or apparently sound) reasoning from acceptable premises, leads to a conclusion that seems senseless, logically unacceptable, or self-contradictory

parallel plot A literary structure in which each of the main characters has a separate, but related storyline; the storylines typically merge in the end

parallelism The use of successive verbal constructions in poetry or prose that correspond in grammatical structure, sound, meter, meaning, etc.

parenthetical citation A citation style in which in-text citations must be enclosed within parentheses and embedded in the paragraph, as opposed to the footnote style

parody An imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect

participial phrase A word group consisting of a present participle or past participle, plus any modifiers, objects, and complements; commonly functions as an adjective

participle A word formed from a verb (e.g., going, gone, being, been) and used as an adjective (e.g., working woman, burned toast) or a noun (e.g., good breeding). In English, participles are also used to make compound verb forms (e.g., is going, has been)

pathetic fallacy An error in logical argumentation which consists in treating inanimate objects or concepts as if they were human beings, for instance having thoughts or feelings

pathos A quality that evokes pity or sadness; in argumentation, relying on emotional appeals

pentameter A line of verse consisting of five metrical feet, or (in Greek and Latin verse) of two halves each of two feet and a long syllable

persona The aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others

personification To give human qualities to a non-human, usually non-living or abstract thing/concept

perspective A particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view

photojournalism The art or practice of communicating news by photographs, esp. in magazines

plagiarism The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and presenting them as one's own

plot The main events of a play, novel, movie, or similar work, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence

poetry A type or genre of writing, usually in verse. Poetry verse is set out in short lines with words put together in rhythm or rhyme or both; usually shares an experience or strong feelings; written with words chosen for their sounds and beauty as well as their

point-of-view The narrator's position in relation to the story being told; the position from which something or someone is observed

Post colonialism An era or attitude relating to the period after the settlement of one country by another, or very broadly, after the 1960s, when many colonized countries gained their independence; a cultural, intellectual, political, and literary movement of the twentieth

precise language The use of specific nouns and vivid verbs to create strong images, convey clear meaning, and avoid wordiness

premise An assertion or proposition which forms the basis for a work or theory; a statement that is assumed to be true and from which a conclusion can be drawn

prepositional phrase A modifying phrase consisting of a preposition and its object

prose Written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure

protagonist The leading or main character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie, novel, or other fictional text

public advocacy Advocacy by an individual or by an advocacy group normally aim to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions; it may be motivated from moral, ethical or faith principles or similar

qualify To make (a statement or assertion) less absolute; add reservations to

Realism The trend, beginning with certain works of nineteenth-century French literature and extending to late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century authors in various countries, towards depictions of contemporary life and society "as they were." Realist authors

reasoning The action of thinking about something in a logical, methodical way

Regionalism A style of literature, usually fiction or poetry that focuses on specific features – including characters, dialects, customs, history, and topography – of a particular region

relative clause A subordinate clause that modifies a noun phrase, most commonly a noun

relevant evidence Examples or proof that directly illustrates a point or argument; has a tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more or less probable than it would be without the evidence

Renaissance The revival of art and literature under the influence of classical models in the 14th–16th centuries in Europe

repetition The recurrence of an action, event, or word usually for effect

research The investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to gather facts and reach new conclusions

resolution A final solution or outcome; the ending

Restoration English literature written during the historical period commonly referred to as the English Restoration (1660–1689); styles of literature that center on a celebration of or reaction to the restored court of Charles II

revenge tragedy A style of drama, popular in England during the late 16th and 17th centuries, in which the basic plot was a quest for vengeance and which typically featured scenes of carnage and mutilation

revise To look over and change something originally written

rhetoric The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, esp. the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques; language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect on its audience, but is often regarded as lacking in sincerity or mea

rhetorical appeal Persuasive strategies, used in arguments to support claims and respond to opposing arguments; generally the three types of appeals used in argumentation: logos, ethos, and pathos

rhythm The measured flow of words and phrases in verse or prose as determined by the relation of long and short or stressed and unstressed syllables

rising action The events in a story that move the plot forward; involves conflicts and complications, and builds toward the climax of the story

Romanticism (American) An artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that was influenced by European Romanticism; emphasized the intuitive perception of man as well as nature, individualism, and freedom

Romanticism (European) An artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that originated in the second half of the 18th century in Europe and strengthened in reaction to the Industrial Revolution; moved against the norms of the Enlightenment, instead focusing on the value of str

round character A character in a novel whose personality is complex and multi-faceted; depicted with such psychological depth and detail that he or she seems like a "real" person

sarcasm The use of irony to mock or convey contempt

satire The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues

scansion The action of scanning a line of verse to determine its rhythm

second-person point-of-view Mode in which the narrator refers to one of the characters as "you", therefore making the audience member feel as if he or she is a character within the story

semicolon A punctuation mark (;) indicating a pause, typically between two main clauses, that is more pronounced than that indicated by a comma

sensory language Words and phrases that help readers see, hear, taste, feel, or smell what the author is describing

setting The place, time, and type of surroundings where an event or story takes place; includes the time, location, and everything in which a story takes place, and initiates the main backdrop and mood for a story. Setting has been referred to as story world or m

simile A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more vivid and using the word like or as (e.g., as brave as a lion, crazy like a fox)

situational irony When what is expected to happen is the opposite of or different from what actually occurs

Socratic seminar A form of inquiry and debate between individuals with opposing viewpoints based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to illuminate ideas; an open-ended circle discussion centered around a certain text where student interact

soliloquy An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, esp. by a character in a play

source material Publications from which information is obtained; the original text or information on which something is based

stance The attitude of a person or organization toward something; a standpoint

standard usage The usage that conforms to the rules of Standard American English; the ways in which words are commonly used

stanza A group of lines that forms a unit in a poem; a verse

starter action The initial action, problem or conflict in a narrative plot

static character A character who remains the same or that changes very little from the beginning of a story to the end

Stream-of-consciousness A narrative mode that seeks to portray an individual's point of view by giving the written equivalent of the character's thought processes, either in a loose interior monologue, or in connection to his or her actions

style A way of painting, writing, composing, building, etc., characteristic of a particular period, place, person, or movement

substantive topic A topic having a firm basis in reality and therefore important, meaningful, or considerable

syllogism An instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn (whether validly or not) from two given or assumed propositions (premises), each of which shares a term with the conclusion, and shares a common or middle term not present in the conclusion

symbol A thing that represents or stands for something else, esp. a material object representing something abstract

synecdoche A figure or trope by which a part of a thing is put for the whole, the whole for a part, the species for the genus, the genus for the species, or the name of the material for the thing made

syntax The arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language

tense shift An instance in which verbs in the same sentence are in different tenses

tension A strained political, social, mental, or emotional state or relationship

textual evidence Examples that have been taken directly from the text

theme A general idea or subject that relates to life or human nature

thesis A statement that can be supported or proven and that drives the development of a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved

third-person limited point-of-view A narrative mode in which the reader experiences the story through the senses and thoughts of just one character, but as revealed by an outside narrator

third-person omniscient point-of-view A narrative mode in which a story is presented by a narrator with an overarching point of view, seeing and knowing everything that happens within the world of the story, including what each of the characters is thinking and feeling

tone Encompasses the attitudes toward the subject and toward the audience; may be formal, informal, intimate, solemn, somber, playful, serious, ironic, condescending, or many other possible attitudes

Toulmin argument A model of argumentation that includes six elements: claim, grounds, warrant, backing, rebuttal/reservation, and qualification

tragedy A drama or similar work, in which the main character is brought to ruin or otherwise suffers the extreme consequences of some tragic flaw or weakness of character; The genre of such works, and the art of producing them; A disastrous event, especially one

tragic flaw A trait (usually beyond the character's ability to control) that causes a character's death or demise

tragic hero The main character in a tragedy; a character of noble stature but who possesses some flaw that brings about his demise

Transcendentalism A philosophical movement that developed in the 1830s and 1840s in the New England region of the United States; characterized by core beliefs in the inherent goodness of both man and nature, that society and its institutions - particularly organized religion

trope A figurative or metaphorical use of a word or expression; a rhetorical figure of speech that consists of a play on words, i.e., using a word in a way other than what is considered its literal or normal form

understatement The presentation of something as being smaller, worse, or less important than it actually is

unreliable narrator A narrating character or storyteller in a literary or other artistic work—such as a novel, play, song, or film—who provides inaccurate, misleading, conflicting, or otherwise questionable information to the reader or audience

validity An argument is valid if and only if its conclusion is entailed by its premises, a formula is valid if and only if it is true under every interpretation, and an argument form (or schema) is valid if and only if every argument of that logical form is valid

value A person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life

verb phrase The part of a sentence containing the verb and any direct or indirect object, but not the subject

verbal irony A figure of speech in which what is said is the opposite of what is meant

verisimilitude The appearance of being true or real

vernacular The language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region; the terminology used by people belonging to a specified group or engaging in a specialized activity

Victorian era The period of Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 to 1901, a long period of peace, prosperity, refined sensibilities and national self-confidence for Britain; literature characterized by idealized portraits of difficult lives in which hard work, perseverance

warrant Justification or authority for an action, belief, or feeling

Works Cited Compilation or list of the citations to the resources (such as books or articles) used to write a paper. The list refers only to those works actually referenced in the paper