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# Glossary

## Common Core Curriculum Maps ELA/Grade 6 – Grade 8

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# Grade 6 – Grade 8

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**acronym** An abbreviation formed from the **initial** letters of other words and pronounced as a word (e.g., ASCII, NASA)

**active voice** The voice used to indicate that the grammatical subject of the verb is performing the action or causing the happening denoted by the verb; "The boy threw the ball" uses the active voice"

**affix** An additional element placed at the beginning or end of a root, stem, or word, or in the body of a word, to modify its meaning

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

**allusion** A passing reference to or indirect mention of a place, event, literary work, myth, or work of art

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

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

**antecedent** A word, phrase, clause, or sentence to which another word (esp. a following relative pronoun) refers

**antonym** A word opposite in meaning to another (e.g., bad and good)

**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

**audience** The people who give or are likely to give their attention to something

**authentic** Genuine; based on facts; accurate or reliable

**author's purpose** The reason an author decides to write about a specific topic; usually to inform, to entertain, to persuade, or to explain

**autobiography** A story of a person's life written by that person

**biblical allusion** References to stories, events, or figures from the Bible

**bibliographic information** All the information necessary to describe a publication. For a book, this is the author, title, place of publication, publisher, and year of publication

**bibliography** A list of the books that are referred to in a piece of writing; a source list

**biography** A story of someone's life written by someone else

**brainstorm** The process of planning and coming up with ideas

**capitalization** To use the large alphabetic characters as the first letter in a sentence or in reference to a proper name

**cause/effect** When one person or thing gives rise to a specific action or condition

**central idea** The thesis or major argument of a nonfiction text

**Character trait** A characteristic; description of how a character thinks, acts, looks, or feels

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

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

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

**classification** The action or process of classifying something according to shared qualities or characteristics

**clause** A unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar said to consist of a subject and predicate

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

**closed questions** Questions which have a restricted range of answers or that requires only a yes or no response

**coherence** The quality of being logical and consistent

**collaborative** Produced or conducted by two or more parties working together

**comma** A punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence. It is also used to separate items in a list and to mark the place of thousands in a large numeral

**commercial motive** Something done with the intent to energize people to desire a particular product or good

**comparison/contrast** To show how two things are both similar and different

**complex sentence** A sentence containing a subordinate clause or clauses

**compound sentence** A sentence with more than one subject or predicate

**compound-complex sentence** A sentence having two or more coordinate independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses

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

**conditional mood** A form of the verb used to signify that something is contingent upon the outcome of something else (e.g. I would sing. If I feel well, I sing. If I were to feel well, I would sing.)

**conflict** An internal or external struggle, disagreement, or fight

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

**context clue** Information that can be found from the words, phrases, or illustrations that surround an unfamiliar word

**counter claim** A statement that reflects the opposite of an argumentative statement; a claim that reflects an opposing position

**credible source** A reliable source that has a reliable publication process, authors who are regarded as authorities in relation to the subject, or both.

**dangling modifier** An error in sentence structure whereby a grammatical modifier is associated with a word other than the one intended, or with no particular word at all.

**dash** A horizontal stroke in writing or printing to mark a pause or break in sense, or to represent omitted letters or words

**data** Facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis

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

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

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

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

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

**draft** A preliminary version of a piece of writing

**drama** A play for theater, radio, or television

**dramatic irony** A situation where the audience is aware of a significant circumstance that a character is not; an incongruity or discrepancy between what a character says or thinks and what the reader knows to be true (or between what a character perceives and what the a

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

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

**ellipsis** The omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues; a series of three dots indicating such an omission

**epic** 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

**episode** An event or a group of events occurring as part of a larger sequence; an incident or period considered in isolation

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

**exaggeration** A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is

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

**fable** A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral

**falling action** The events of a drama after the climax (or crisis) but before the resolution

**fantasy** A genre of imaginative fiction involving magic and adventure, esp. in a setting other than the real world

**fiction** Stories, tales, and novels that describe imaginary events and people

**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

**figure of speech** A figure of speech is a use of a word that departs from its normal meaning, or a phrase with a specialized meaning not based on the literal meaning of the words in it such as a metaphor, simile, or personification. Figures of speech often provide emphasis

**finding** A conclusion reached as a result of an inquiry, investigation, or trial

**first-person point-of-view** A character in the story is telling the story

**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

**folktale** A story that is sometimes shared orally and that is passed from one generation to the next in a particular culture

**foreshadowing** A warning or indication of a future event; the use of clues that signal later events

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

**free verse** Poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter

**generalization** A broad statement or concept obtained by inference from specific cases

**genre** A category, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter

**gerund** A form that is derived from a verb but that functions as a noun, in English ending in -ing, e.g., asking in do you mind my asking you

**glossary** An alphabetical list of terms or words found in or relating to a specific subject, usually with explanations; a brief dictionary

**grammar** The rules and structures of a language including the parts of a sentence and how they are put together

**graphic** A visual image (drawing, graph, photograph, etc.)

**heading** A title at the head of a page or section of a book; a division or section of a subject

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

**historical fiction** Works in which the characters are fictional, but the setting and other details are rooted in actual history

**hook** An introductory statement designed to catch the audience's attention

**human vs. fate** A conflict in which the protagonist must contend against a fact or life or death over which people have little control

**human vs. human** A conflict in which the protagonist must contend with another character

**human vs. nature** A conflict in which the protagonist is threatened by an element of the natural world

**human vs. self** A conflict in which the protagonist struggles within himself or herself

**human vs. society** A conflict in which the protagonist is in conflict with the values of his or her society

**humor** The quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech

**hyperbole** Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

**idiom** A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (e.g., rain cats and dogs, see the light)

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

**imperative mood** Expresses direct commands or requests; a mood that expresses an intention to influence the listener's behavior

**incident** An event or occurrence

**indicative mood** A mood that represents the act or state as an objective fact; a category of grammatical moods which indicate that something is actually the case (or actually not the case)

**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

**inference** A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

**inferred meaning** A conclusion about a word's meaning that is reached on the basis of reasoning and context clues

**infinitive** The basic form of a verb, without an inflection binding it to a particular subject or tense (e.g., we came to see, let him see)

**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

**inquiry** An investigation; the act of asking for or seeking information

**intensive pronoun** An intensive pronoun is a pronoun used to add emphasis to a statement; for example, "I did it myself." An intensive pronoun is different from a reflexive, because you can take the pronoun out and the sentence still makes sense.

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

**interpretation** An explanation or meaning derived from an experience, event, or text

**interrogative mood** A mood used for asking questions

**introduction** A beginning or preliminary section that explains a topic

**irony** A difference between what is said and what is meant or between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs

**justify** To show or prove to be right or reasonable

**keyboarding** To type or input text into a device

**legend** A traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but unauthenticated

**literal meaning** The ordinary, normal, factual meaning; meaning without figurative association

**literary allusion** A reference to another literary work or author

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

**mechanics** The conventions of written language including punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

**media literacy** The process of understanding and using the mass media in an assertive and non-passive way. This includes an informed and critical understanding of the nature of the media, the techniques used by them and the impact of these techniques.

**memoir** A written account of one's memory of certain events or people

**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

**misplaced modifier** A phrase or clause placed awkwardly in a sentence so that it appears to modify or refer to an unintended word

**modifier** A word, esp. an adjective or noun, that restricts or adds to the sense of a head noun (e.g., good and family in a good family house)

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

**moral** A lesson, esp. one concerning what is right or good, that can be learned from a story, a piece of information, or an experience

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

**motive** A reason for doing something, esp. one that is hidden or not obvious

**multi-genre** Incorporating or including a variety of text types

**multimedia** Using more than one medium of expression or communication

**mystery** A novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, esp. a murder

**myth** A traditional story, esp. one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events

**mythological allusion** A reference made to a story or character featured in a myth

**mythology** A collection of myths, esp. one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition

**narrative** A spoken or written account of connected events; a story

**narrative description** A thorough and detailed written account

**narrative poetry** Poetry that tells a story

**narrator** A person who tells the events of a story, esp. a character who recounts the events of a novel or narrative poem

**nonfiction** Writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography or history

**nuance** A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound



**objective (adj.)** Not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts

**objective pronoun** Function as the target of the verb (rather than the initiator)

**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)

**open-ended questions** Designed to encourage a full, nuanced, meaningful answer that may incorporate various sources of knowledge or personal opinions

**opinion** A view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge

**opposing claim** The counter claim; the claim that reflects the opposite argument

**oration** A formal speech, esp. one given on a ceremonial occasion

**oxymoron** A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction

**pacing** The tempo or speed at which something is read, written, or spoken

**parable** A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson

**paraphrase** To reword something written or spoken by someone else

**parentheses** One or both of a pair of marks () used to include a word, clause, or sentence

**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)

**passive voice** The voice used to indicate that the grammatical subject of the verb is the recipient (not the source) of the action denoted by the verb; "The ball was thrown by the boy" uses the passive voice"

**personal narrative** Personal writing that covers a specific event in the writer's life; it often contains personal comments and ideas as well as a description of the event

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

**phrase** A small group of words that stand together as a unit in a sentence and that form part of a clause

**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

**political motive** Something done with the intent to energize people to adopt or advance a political stance or agenda

**portrayal** A depiction or description of someone or something in a work of art or literature

**possessive pronoun** A pronoun indicating possession, for example mine, yours, hers, theirs

**pronoun number** The determination of whether a pronoun should be singular or plural

**pronoun person** References the first (I), second (you), or third (he, she, it, they) person case

**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

**publish** To prepare and issue for public view and use

**pun** A joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words that sound alike but have different meanings

**quote** To repeat a passage from (a work or author) or statement by (someone)

**realistic fiction** Stories that are imaginary, but that deal with events that could happen in real life

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

**rebuttal** Evidence or argument made in response to an opposing argument; a refutation

**redundancy** The use of words or data that could be omitted without loss of meaning or function; repetition of information or words

**repetition** The recurrence of an action, event, or word

**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

**revise** To look over and change something originally written

**rhyme** Correspondence of sound between words or the endings of words, esp. when these are used at the ends of lines of poetry

**rhyme scheme** The ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem or verse

**rhythm** The measured flow of words and phrases in verse or prose

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

**scene** The place where an incident in real life or fiction occurs or occurred; a subdivision of an act of a play

**science fiction** Fiction based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets

**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.

**sentence variety** Inclusion of sentences of varying length and type (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex)

**sequence** A particular order in which related events, movements, or things follow each other

**setting** The place, time, and type of surroundings where an event or story takes place

**short story** A story with a fully developed theme but significantly shorter and less elaborate than a novel

**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)

**simple sentence** A sentence consisting of only one clause, with a single subject and predicate

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

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

**sonnet** A poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line

**source** A book, document, or person used to provide evidence in research

**speaker** The person who is delivering the words and thoughts in a speech or poem

**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

**style** The manner in which language is used (journalistic, poetic, romantic, comedic, etc.)

**subject** The noun to which the rest of the sentence relates

**subjective** Based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions

**subjective pronoun** A personal pronoun that is used as the subject of a sentence

**subjunctive mood** A verb mood typically used in subordinate clauses to express a wish, emotion, possibility, judgment, opinion, necessity, or action that has not yet occurred

**summary** A brief statement or account of the main points of something

**suspense** A state or feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen

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

**symbolism** The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities

**synonym** A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language

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

**tall tale** A story with unbelievable elements, related as if it were true and factual; some such stories are exaggerations of actual events

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

**textual evidence** Examples that have been taken directly from the text

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

**thesaurus** A book that lists words in groups of synonyms and related concepts

**thesis** A statement that can be supported or proven

**Third-person point-of-view** A narrative style where the narrator is outside of the story; the narrator is removed and not a character in the story

**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

**transition** A word, phrase, or moment of connection between two ideas or sections

**unity** The ability to be organized around a main point or thesis

**usage** The way in which a word or phrase is normally and correctly used

**verbal (n.)** A noun that is functioning as a verb

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

**verse** A group of lines that form a unit in a poem or song; a stanza

**word root** The stem or main part of a word

**wordiness** The use of more words than necessary