

Appendix C-1

Literary and Poetry Terms with Definitions

diction	in general, diction refers to the vocabulary used by a writer, Specific word choices, often with reference to connotation, are the consideration of diction.
drama	a story performed by actors who impersonate characters; a play. A less common usage refers to the type of serious play that is often concerned with the leading character's relationship to society rather than with some tragic flaw within his personality.
denotation	the specific, exact meaning of a word, independent of its emotional coloration or associations; dictionary definition.
dialogue	<p>conversation of two or more people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advances the action in a definite way • consistent with the character of the speaker • gives the impression of naturalness without being an actual, verbatim record of what may have been said • presents the interplay of ideas and personalities among the people conversing; sets forth a conversational give and take - not simply a series of remarks of alternating speakers • it varies in diction, rhythm, phrasing, sentence length, and such; (6) serves to give relief from passages essentially serious or expository.
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drama	a story performed by actors who impersonate characters; a play. A less common usage refers to the type of serious play that is often concerned with the leading character's relationship to society rather than with some tragic flaw within his personality.
ellipsis	a figurative device where a word (several words) is left out in order to achieve more compact expression.
epitaph	an inscription of a tomb or grave that describes or comment on a person(s) for whom the memorial was erected.
euphemism	the substitution of a mild and pleasant expression to disguise a harsh or blunt truth. <i>Ex. "to pass away" for "die", "Under-achiever" for "lazy slacker".</i>

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epic	a long narrative poem written in elevated style which tells of the deeds and adventures of a hero. The epic features a vast setting or scope, contains supernatural forces, and glorifies the past of a culture or race.
farce	literature whose one purpose is to make the audience laugh; a dramatic piece intended to excite laughter and depending less on plot and character than on exaggerated, improbable situations, the humor arising from gross incongruities, coarse wit, or horseplay.
figures of speech	writing or speech not meant to be interpreted literally; language used to create vivid word pictures, to make writing emotionally intense and concentrated, and to state ideas in new and unusual ways.
flashback	jumping backward in the chronology of a narrative, often through a dream or musing sequence.
foil	character who serves as contrast in personality and motivation; any person or sometimes an object that through strong contrast underscores or enhances the distinctive characteristics of another. <i>Ex. hero and villain.</i>
foreshadow	hints during the narrative about what will happen later, can be literal hints or symbolic hints.
free verse	poetry not written in a regular rhythmical pattern or meter. Instead of having metrical feet and lines, free verse has a rhythm that suits its meaning and that uses the sounds of spoken language in lines of different lengths.
Haiku	an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines, usually containing 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively.
hyperbole	a conscious exaggeration used without the intent of literal persuasion. It may be used to heighten effect, or it may be used to produce comic effect.
idiom	a form of expression, construction or phrase peculiar to a language and often possessing a meaning other than its grammatical or logical one. <i>Ex. "fit as a fiddle", "lead by the nose", and "barking up the wrong tree".</i>
imagery	creation of mental pictures or sensation by pertinent word choice and heightened description which appeal to the five senses. <i>Ex. His leathery, sun-abused face was ridged like corrugated cardboard.</i>

Literary and Poetry Terms with Definitions

inference	the passing from one proposition, statement of judgment considered to be true to another whose truth is believed to follow from that of the former.
inversion	the reversal of the normal word order of a sentence. It is often used in poetry to facilitate a rhyme scheme, in prose and poetry to create specific effects.
irony	<p>a contrast between what is stated and what is meant or between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs.</p> <p>verbal - a word or phrase is used to suggest the opposite of its usual meaning.</p> <p>situational - an event occurs that directly contradicts the expectation of the characters or of the reader.</p> <p>dramatic - a contradiction between what a character thinks and what the reader know to be true. <i>Ex. Julius Caesar entertains the conspirators the morning of his assassination.</i></p>
jargon	a private or technical vocabulary peculiar to a specific group, as a trade or profession.
limerick	a humorous verse form of five lines, with a rhyme scheme of <i>a,a,b,b,a</i> .
lyric poem	a poem suitable for being set to music and sung.
metaphor	comparison of unlike things without using the words <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> . <i>Ex. Her lips were rose petals.</i>
meter	the rhythmical patter of a poem, determined by the number and types of stresses, or beats, in each line.
moral	a lesson the literature is teaching; fables usually teach a lesson about life.
narrative poem	a poem containing a story
onomatopoeia	the use of words that imitate sounds. <i>Ex. buzz, hiss, murmur, rustle.</i>
oxymoron	a figure of speech that combines two opposing or contradictory ideas. <i>Ex. "freezing fire" or "conspicuous in his absence"</i>
paraphrase	restatement of writing, keeping the basic meaning, but telling it in one's own words and sentence variation.

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parody	a humorous imitation of a literary work, one that exaggerates or distorts the features of the original.
personification	literary device where writer attributes human qualities to objects or ideas. <i>Ex. Fear raised its ugly head. Ex. During the earthquake the desk walked across the room.</i>
plot	<p>structure of the literature; the way it is put together; the unfolding or sequence of the events.</p> <p>exposition - the introductory material, which creates the tone, gives the setting, introduces the characters, and supplies other facts necessary to an understanding of the story.</p> <p>inciting incident - the event or force which sets in motion the rising action of a play or story; the event which introduces the central conflict.</p> <p>rising action - the complication of the action during which suspense and the feeling of excitement and energy build, culminating in the climax or turning point.</p> <p>climax (turning point) - high point in the plot where the reader is most intrigued and does not yet know the outcome; point the greatest emotional tension.</p> <p>falling action - the part of a dramatic plot which follows the climax, beginning often with a tragic force, exhibiting the failing fortunes of the hero (in tragedy) and the successful efforts of the antagonist (s), and culminating in the catastrophe.</p> <p>resolution (denouement) - clarification, solution, or outcome of the conflict in a story.</p>
poetry	metrical writing, verse, containing concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language through meaning, sound and rhythm.

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point of view	<p>perspective from which the story is written; can be omniscient (all-knowing), first-person ("I"), shifting between characters, or other.</p> <p>first person - the story is told in the first person by one of the characters; has become increasingly popular.</p> <p>third-person limited - the author chooses a character and the story is related in terms of that character in such a way that the field of vision is confined to him or her alone.</p> <p>third-person omniscient - the author moves from character to character, place to place, and episode to episode with complete freedom, giving himself access to his characters' thoughts and feelings whenever chooses and providing information whenever he wishes; the most common point of view.</p>
pun	a play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word or on the similar sound
refrain	a regularly recurring phrase or verse at the end of each stanza
repetition	the technique in which words and sounds are repeated in poetry
rhetorical question	a question to which no answer is expected
rhyme	the repetition of sound at the ends of words
rhyme scheme	the arrangement of rhymes in a stanza or poem
rhythm	the pattern of beats, or stresses, in spoken or written language
satire	writing that ridicules or criticizes individuals, ideas, institutions, social conventions, or other works of art or literature.
setting	time and place of a story. <i>Ex. Nineteenth-century England</i>
simile	comparison of one thing to another using the words <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> . <i>Her lips were like rose petals.</i>
sonnet	a fourteen-line lyric poem, usually written in iambic pentameter, focused on a single theme
stanza	a group of lines in a poem that are considered to be a unit

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style	a writer's typical way of writing. Determinants of a writer's style include formality, use of figurative language, use of rhythm, typical grammatical patterns, typical sentence lengths, and typical methods of organization.
symbol	a word or object which has meaning in itself but stands for something else; something concrete which represents something abstract. <i>Ex. dove: peace Ex. "The Masque of the Red Death" the seven rooms: the seven stages of man.</i>
theme	main idea in a piece of literature; topic or subject and author's comment.
tone	the writer's attitude toward his or her subject, characters, or audience.
tragedy	a drama or literary work in which the main character is brought to ruin or suffers extreme sorrow as a consequence of a tragic flaw, a moral weakness, or an inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances.
verse	a single metrical line in a poem.