**AP / Honors Literary Terms Student Version 2017-18**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Adhominem argument**   Appealing to personal consideration rather than logic or reason  Attacking an opponent's personal character rather than answering his argument  Ad hominem (Latin) means “against the man”; involves commenting on or against an opponent to undermine him instead of his arguments. | |
| 1. **Aesthetic**   Of beauty; sensitive to art and beauty; showing good taste; visually pleasing; | |
| 1. **Allegory**   A complete narrative that may also be applied to a parallel set of moral, philosophical, political, religious, or social situations  a- historical and political- character and actions represent historical personages and events  b- ideas- characters represent abstract concepts and plot- doctrine or thesis | |
| 1. **Alliteration**   The repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in close proximity | |
| 1. **Allusion**   Unacknowledged references and quotations; authors assume that readers will recognize the original sources and relate their meaning to the new context   1. **Ambiguity**   Quality of being intentionally unclear; can be interpreted more than one way | |
| 1. **Anachronism**   Placing an event ...  State or condition of being chronologically out of place | |
| 1. **Anecdote**   A short account of an interesting or humorous incident | |
| 1. **Antagonist**   The person, idea, ... | |
| 1. **Antihero**   A protagonist who carries the action of the literary piece but does not ...   1. **Antithesis**   Direct contrast; opposition; figure of speech in which sharply contrasting ideas are juxtaposed in a balanced or parallel phrase or structure | |
| 1. **Aphorism**   A tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion; adage; brief statement of a principle (cheating is wrong; violators will be killed)  A concise and witty statement of wisdom or opinion | |
| 1. **Apostrophe**   A figure of speech in which ... | |
| 1. **Apotheosis**   Elevating ...   1. **Approximate rhyme**   Imperfect, near, slant or oblique rhyme; term used for words in a rhyming pattern that have some kind of sound correspondence but are not perfect rhymes such as about and that, by and boy | |
| 1. **Archetype** (är-ki-ˌtīp)   A character, situation or symbol that is familiar to people from all cultures because it occurs frequently in literature, myth, religion or folklore  a typical character, an action or a situation that seems to represent such universal patterns of human nature.   1. **Aside**   Private words that a character in a play speaks to the audience or to another character and that are not supposed to be overheard by others on stage   1. **Assonance**   The repetition of identical vowel sounds in different words in close proximity; as in the *deep green sea* | |
| 1. **Aubade**   A poem about dawn; a morning love song; poem about the parting of lovers at dawn | |
| 1. **Authorial persona**   (voice) the voice or persona used by authors when seemingly speaking for themselves; enables discussion of a narration or presentation without identifying the ideas absolutely with those of the author; author’s voice when speaking for himself | |
| 1. **Ballad**   A narrative poem composed of quatrains in ballad measure; a pattern of iambic tetrameter alternating with iambic tri-meter and rhyming; short narrative poem written in songlike stanza form | |
| 1. **Blank verse**   Unrhymed iambic pentameter | |
| 1. **Cacophony**   Bad sound; refers to words combining sharp or harsh sounds  Use of harsh or discordinate sounds in literary composition | |
| 1. **Cadence**   Any rhythmic flow of sound; measured movement- the beat of such movement; the fall of the voice in speaking  Cadence group- coherent word group spoken as a single rhythmical unit (i.e. Noun phrase) | |
| 1. **Caesura**   Grammatical pause; rhetorical pause; a pause introduced into the reading of a line by a mark of punctuation; the pause(s) or juncture(s) separating phrases within lines of poetry; an important aspect of poetic rhythm   1. **Canto**   A subdivision in a long poem, corresponding to a chapter in a book | |
| 1. **Caricature**   A representation in which the subject's distinctive features or peculiarities are exaggerated for comic or grotesque effect  A portrait which ridicules a person by exaggerating and distorting their most prominent features and characteristics | |
| 1. **Catharsis**   Emotional release experienced by the audience at ... | |
| 1. **Cliché**   A trite or overused expression or idea | |
| 1. **Climax**   The high point of conflict and tension preceding the resolution of a story or play; the point of decision of inevitability and no return, is sometimes merged with crisis in the consideration of dramatic and narrative structure; turning point or high point in a plot; excitement | |
| 1. **Close reading**   The detailed study of a poem or passage; designed to explain characters, ideas, style, setting etc. | |
| 1. **Colloquial**   Of or relating to slang or regional dialect, used in familiar everyday conversation. In writing, an informal style that reflects the way people spoke in a distinct time and /or place | |
| 1. **Comedy**   A type of drama, opposed to tragedy, usually having a happy ending and emphasizing human limitation rather than human greatness; an amusing play or show having a happy ending | |
| 1. **Conceit**   A fanciful and elaborate figure of speech that makes a surprising connection between two seemingly dissimilar things  Elaborate, fanciful metaphor, especially of a strange or far-fetched nature   1. **Connotation**   What a word suggests beyond  a word’s overtones of meaning; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attachment put with a word- may not be its actual design | |
| 1. **Consonance**   The repetition of final consonant sounds after different vowel sounds   1. **Cosmic irony *see also* irony of fate**   Situational irony that is connected to a ... | |
| 1. **Couplet**   A unit of verse consisting of 2 successive lines, usually rhyming and having the same meter, often forming a complete thought or syntactic unit; 2 successive lines of poetry of the same length that rhyme, usually in the same meter | |
| 1. **Denotation**   The basic definition or dictionary meaning of a word | |
| 1. **Denouement *see also* resolution**   The final stage of plot development in which mysteries are explained characters find their destinies, and the work is completed. Usually the denouement is done as speedily as possible for it occurs after all conflicts are ended   1. **Deus ex machina**   Any artificial or contrived device used at the end of a plot to resolve or untangle the complication  Any device that resolves a plot in a forced or ridiculously implausible way.  example – an orphan inheriting a fortune in time to save the day; a god stepping in and resolving the conflict | |
| 1. **Diction**   Choice and use of words in speech or writing; degree of clarity and distinctness of pronunciation in speech or singing; enunciation; word choice | |
| 1. **Didactic**   The author's primary purpose is to instruct, teach or moralize   1. **Documentation**   Granting recognition to the ideas and words of others, either through textual parenthetical, or footnote references | |
| 1. **Double entendre**   Double meaning; deliberate ambiguity, often sexual and usually humorous | |
| 1. **Dramatic convention**   Any dramatic device which, though it departs from reality, is implicitly accepted by the author and audience as a means of representing reality | |
| 1. **Dramatic irony**   A special kind of situational irony in which a character perceives his or her plight in a limited way while the audience and one or more of the other characters understand it entirely; discrepancy between what a character thinks and what the reader knows to be true (Oedipus) | |
| 1. **Dramatic monologue**   Composition in which a speaker reveals his or her character, often in relation to a critical situation or event in a monologue addressed to the reader or to a presumed listener  Talks about himself as if someone else were present- reveals something about himself | |
| 1. **Dramatic point of view *see also* objective point of view *or* 3rd person object point of view**   A 3rd person narration reporting speech and action, but excluding commentary on the actions and thought of the characters; all seeing but not all knowing | |
| 1. **Editorializing**   To present an the guise of ... | |
| 1. **Elegy**   A poem or song of lament and ... | |
| 1. **End-stopped line**   A line of ...   1. **English or Shakespearean sonnet**   A sonnet rhyming abab cdcd efef gg  Its content or structure ideally parallels the rhyme scheme | |
| 1. **Enjambment**   In poetry, the running over of a sentence from one verse or stanza into the next without stopping at the end of the first   1. **Epic**   A long narrative poem elevating character speech and action   1. **Epiphany**   In a literary work, a moment of ...   1. **Epistolary novel**   A novel in letter form written by one or more of the characters. The novelist can use this technique to present varying first-person points of view and does not need a narrator   1. **Epithet**   An adjective or other descriptive phrase that is regularly used to characterize a person, place or thing | |
| 1. **Escape Literature**   Literature written purely for entertainment, with little or no attempt to provide insights into the true nature of human life or behavior   1. **Etymology**   The study of the roots of words and their meanings  Linguistic history and origins of a word | |
| 1. **Euphemism**   Use of an indirect expression in place of one that is harsh; Substituting a mild term for a harsh one; substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit | |
| 1. **Euphony**   A smooth, pleasant – | |
| 1. **Exposition**   The stage of dramatic structure which introduces all things necessary for the development of the plot; speech or writing that explains a process, thing or idea | |
| 1. **Extended figure (sustained figure)**   Figure of speech (metaphor, simile, personification or apostrophe) sustained or developed through a considerable number of lines or through a whole poem | |
| 1. **Fable**   A brief story illustrating a moral truth most often associated with the ancient Greek writer Aesop | |
| 1. **Farce**   A play that is characterized by broad humor, wild antics and often slapstick pratfalls or other physical humor; Humorous play; highly improbable plot and exaggerated characters | |
| 1. **Fiction**   Narratives based in the imagination of the author, not in literal reportorial facts; one of the 3 major genres of imaginative literature | |
| 1. **Figurative language/figure of speech**   Words and expressions that conform to a particular pattern or form, such as metaphor, simile and parallelism; language employing figures of speech; language that cannot be taken literally or only literally | |
| 1. **First person point of view**   The use of an “I” or 1st person speaker or narrator who tells about things that he/she has seen, done, spoken, heard, thought and also learned about in other ways; involved in action to some degree | |
| 1. **Fixed form**   A form of poem in which the length and ... | |
| 1. **Flashback**   Earlier event inserted into the normal chronological order of a narration; a method of narration in which past events are inserted into present action | |
| 1. **Foil character**   A character who sets off another character by strong contrast; A minor character whose situation or actions parallel those of a major character and thus by contrast sets off or illuminates the major character most often the contrast is complimentary to the major character  Example: Banquo is a foil to Macbeth | |
| 1. **Foot**   The basic unit ... | |
| 1. **Form (structure)**   Arrangement and placement of materials in a work; Internal organization of a poem’s context  The external pattern or shape of a poem, describable without reference to its content, as continuous form | |
| 1. **Framing (enclosing) setting**   The same features of topic or setting used at both the beginning and ending of a work so as to ”frame” or “enclose” the work | |
| 1. **Free verse**   Poetry with no rhyming or rhythmic schemes  Non metrical poetry in which the basic rhythmic unit is the line and natural speech rhythms replace metrical regularity as a formal device | |
| 1. **Gustatory images**   Imagery that refers to impressions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| 1. **Hubris**   Insolence, arrogance or pride. In Greek tragedy, the protagonists hubris is usually the tragic flaw that leads to his or her downfall   1. **Hyperbole *see also* overstatement**   A rhetorical figure in which emphasis is achieved through exaggeration; a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used in the service of truth stretching the truth; Extravagant exaggeration used as a figure of speech for emphasis | |
| 1. **Image, imagery**   References that trigger the mind to fuse together memories of ...   1. **In medias res**   The technique of starting a story in the middle and then using a flashback to tell what happened earlier. | |
| 1. **Interior monologue**   A passage of writing presenting a character’s inner thoughts and emotions in a direct, sometimes disjointed or fragmentary manner  A literary device in which a character’s innermost thoughts and feelings are presented as part of the narrative | |
| 1. **Irony**   A contrast or discrepancy between expectation and reality- between what is said and what is really meant, between what is expected and what really happens or between what appears to be true and what really is true  Broadly a means of indirection; using a word or phrase to mean the exact opposite of its literal normal meaning  Language that states the opposite of what is intended is verbal irony  A situation or use of language involving some kind of incongruity or discrepancy  Verbal; dramatic and situational | |
| 1. **Irony of fate *see also* cosmic irony**   Cosmic irony – situational irony that is connected to a pessimistic or fatalistic view of life | |
| 1. **Irony of situation *see also* situational irony**   Situational irony – a type of irony emphasizing that human beings are enmeshed in forces beyond their comprehension and control | |
| 1. **Italian or Petrarchan sonnet**   A sonnet consisting of an octave rhyming abba abba and of a sestet using any arrangement of two or three additional rhymes such as cd cd cd or cde cde | |
| 1. **Kenning**   In Anglo-Saxon poetry, a metaphorical Phrase or compound word used to name a person, place, thing or event indirectly.  Example: Whale-road – from Beowulf – to indicate the sea   1. **Kinesthetic images**   Words describing | |
| 1. **Kinetic images**   Words describing general \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| 1. **Lampoon**   A broad satirical piece that uses ridicule to attack... | |
| 1. **Limited omniscient point of view**   3rd person narration in which the actions and thought of the protagonist are the focus of attention | |
| 1. **Limited point of view**   See above | |
| 1. **Literature**   Written or oral compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions and analyze and advocate ideas. is designed to engage readers emotionally and intellectually with major genres being fiction, poetry, drama and nonfiction prose with many separate sub-forms. Anything that tells a story | |
| 1. **Lyric Poetry**   Poetry that focuses on expressing emotions or thoughts, rather than on telling a story | |
| 1. **Lyrical**   A poem mainly expressing the poet’s emotions and thoughts: sonnets, elegies, odes hymns  Characterized by expressing rapture or great enthusiasm | |
| 1. **Mechanics of verse**   Prosody ... | |
| 1. **Melodrama**   A type of drama related to tragedy but featuring sensational incidents, emphasizing plot at the expense of characterization, relying on cruder conflicts (virtuous protagonist versus villainous antagonist), and having a happy ending in which good triumphs over evil   1. **Metaphor**   Figurative language that describes something ... | |
| 1. **Metaphysical poetry**   A term applied to the poetry of John Donne, Andrew Marvell and other 17th century poets who wrote in a similarly difficult and abstract style  Intellectual and detached in contrast to the Elizabethan love poetry that preceded it; distinguished by ingenious, obscure imagery, philosophical meditation, rough-sounding meter and verbal wit   1. **Meter**   The number of feet within a line of traditional verse, such as iambic pentameter, referring to a line containing 5 iambs; measurable repetition of accented and unaccented syllables in poetry | |
| 1. **Metonymy**   Figure of speech in which some significant aspect or detail of an experience is used to represent the whole experience  The use of something closely related for the thing actually meant  substituting the name of an attribute or feature for the name of the thing itself (as in `they counted heads')  Using the term 'Washington' to refer to the US government is an example of metonymy.  Ex- Referring to the president as “the White House” | |
| 1. **Mock Epic**   A comic narrative poem that parodies the topic by treating a trivial subject in a lofty, grand manner   1. **Mood**   Atmosphere – the emotional aura invoked by a work | |
| 1. **Motif**   In literature, a word, character, object....  A conspicuous element such as a type of incident device, reference or formula which occurs frequently in works of literature   1. **Myth, mythology**   A myth is a story that deals with the relationship of gods to humanity or battles among heroes may also be a set of beliefs or assumptions among societies; mythology- collectively to all the stories and beliefs | |
| 1. **Narrator *see also* speaker**   Speaker- of a story or poem – point of view – often an independent character who is completely imagined and consistently maintained by the author; may also introduce other aspects of his or her knowledge and may interject judgments and opinions; as much interest as the actions or incidents | |
| 1. **Novel**   A long work of prose fiction | |
| 1. **Objective point of view *see also* dramatic *or* 3rd person objective point of view**   3rd person narrating speech and actions excluding commentary on the actions and thought of the characters   1. **Octave**   An eight-line stanza or poem or the first eight lines of an Italian or Petrarchan sonnet; usually rhymes abbaabba; also can be called the octet | |
| 1. **Ode**   A complex, generally long lyric poem on a serious subject   1. **Olfactory imagery**   Images referring to impressions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| 1. **Omniscient point of view**   3rd person speaker with no limitations may describe intentions, actions, reactions, locations and speeches of any or all the characters and may describe their innermost thoughts; all knowing and all seeing third person speaker | |
| 1. **Onomatopoeia**   A blending of consonant and vowel sounds designed to imitate or suggest the activity being described  The use of words that supposedly mimic their meaning in their sound  The use of words whose sounds suggest their meaning | |
| 1. **Overstatement *see also* hyperbole**   A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used in the service of truth for emphasis;  Rhetorical figure in which emphasis is achieved through exaggeration | |
| 1. **Oxymoron**   A figure of speech that combines apparently contradictory or incongruous ideas  Use of language in which 2 opposite qualities are conjoined;  A rheortical device in which 2 seemingly contradictory words are used together for effect   1. **Parable**   A short allegory or story designed to illustrate a moral, religious or philosophical truth, most often associated with Jesus as recorded in the gospels  A brief and often simple narrative that illustrates a moral or religious lesson | |
| 1. **Paradox**   A statement or situation containing apparently contradictory or incompatible elements  A seemingly contradictory statement that may none the less still be true  This statement is false. | |
| 1. **Paraphrase**   A brief restatement in one’s ... | |
| 1. **Parody**   A literary or artistic work that ... | |
| 1. **Pastoral**   A type of poem that depicts rustic life in idyllic, idealized terms; originally about shepherds, nymphs and rustic life; today is about any poem portraying a idyllic rural setting or expressing nostalgia for an age or place of lost innocence   1. **Pathos**   Causes or evokes feelings ... | |
| 1. **Personification**   A figure of speech in which ... | |
| 1. **Phonetic, phonetics**   The actual pronunciation of sounds, as distinguished from spelling or graphics | |
| 1. **Plausibility, probability**   The standard that literature should be concerned with what is likely, common, normal and usual | |
| 1. **Plot**   Sequence of incidents or events of which a story or drama is composed; the plan or groundwork for a story or play with the actions resulting from believable and authentic human responses to a conflict | |
| 1. **Poem**   A variable literary genre foremost characterized by the rhythmical qualities of language; essence- compression, economy and force in contrast with the expansion of prose | |
| 1. **Point of view**   The speaker, narrator, voice or persona of a work; the position from which details are perceived and related; a centralizing mind or intelligence; not to be confused with opinion or belief; angle of vision from which a story is told |
| 1. **Polemic**   A controversial argument refuting or attacking |
| 1. **Private or contextual symbol**   Not derived from common historical, |
| 1. **Procatalepsis or anticipation**   A rhetorical strategy whereby the writer raises an objection and then answers it; the idea is to strengthen an argument by anticipating and forestalling objections |
| 1. **Prose fiction**   Imaginative prose narratives that focus on one or a few characters who undergo a change or develop as they interact with other characters and deal with their problems |
| 1. **Prosody**   The sounds and rhythms of poetry |
| 1. **Protagonist**   The central character and focus of interest |
| 1. **Pseudonym** |
| 1. **Quatrain**   A 4-line stanza or poem or a group of four lines unified by a rhyme scheme   1. **Raconteur**   One who cleverly tells stories and anecdotes with skill and wit |
| 1. **Realism *see also* verisimilitude**   The use of true lifelike or probable situations and concerns; representing an object as it exists in the real world |
| 1. **Refrain**   A repeated word, phrase, line or group of lines |
| 1. **Research, literary**   The systematic use of primary and secondary sources for assistance in studying a literary problem; study finding articles dealing with literature |
| 1. **Resolution *see also* denouement**   The final stage of plot development in which mysteries are solved and characters find their destinies  Outcome or unraveling of a plot in a drama; portion of a plot that reveals the final outcome of conflicts and solutions of mysteries |
| 1. **Rhetoric**   The art or study of using lang. effectively and persuasively; language that is elaborate, pretentious, insincere or intellectual; vacuous verbal communication; discourse |
| 1. **Rhetorical figure**   Figurative language – words and expressions |
| 1. **Rhetorical question**   A question to which no answer is expected; used for persuasive purposes |
| 1. **Rhyme scheme**   A pattern of rhyme usually indicated by the assignment of a letter of the alphabet to each rhyming sound, as in abba |
| 1. **Rhythm**   The varying speed, intensity, elevation, pitch, loudness and expressiveness of speech, esp. poetry |
| 1. **Sarcasm**   Bitter or cutting speech; speech intended by its speaker to give pain to the person addressed  Ironical use of a remark or comment |
| 1. **Satire**   A kind of literature that ridicules human folly or vice versa with the purpose of bringing about reform or of keeping others from falling into similar folly or vice; a lit. work with human vices or follies to ridicule or scorn |
| 1. **Scansion**   The act of determining the prevailing rhythm of a poem   1. **Second-person point of view**   A narration in which a second person listener (“you”) is the protagonist and the speaker is someone with knowledge that the protagonist does not posses or understand about his or her own actions |
| 1. **Sentimentality**   Unmerited or contrived tender feelings; that quality in a story that elicits or seeks to elicit tears through an oversimplification or falsification of reality |
| 1. **Sestet**   A six-line stanza or poem or that last six lines of an Italian or Petrarchan sonnet   1. **Setting**   The natural manufactured and cultural environment in which characters live and move including all their possessions, homes, ways of life and assumptions; the context in time and place in which the action of a story occurs |
| 1. **Short story**   A compact, concentrated work of narrative fiction that may also contain description, dialogue and commentary “brief prose tale”  Short piece of prose fiction having few characters and aiming at a unity of effect. |
| 1. **Simile**   A figure of comparison using “like” with nouns and “as” with clauses |
| 1. **Situational irony *see also* irony of situation**   A type of irony emphasizing that human beings are enmeshed in forces beyond their control an comprehension  A situation in which there is an incongruity between appearance and reality or between expectation and fulfillment or between the actual situation and what would seem appropriate; forces beyond…. |
| 1. **Slant rhyme**   Inexact rhyme; off rhyme; concluding consonant sounds but not vowels are identical as in “should” and “food” “slim” and ”ham” |
| 1. **Soliloquy**   A speech in which a character alone on the stage addresses himself or herself  A soliloquy is a thinking out loud a dramatic means of letting an audience know a character’s thoughts and feelings; a character thinking aloud to himself on stage |
| 1. **Sonnet**   A fixed form of 14 lines, normally iambic pentameter, with a rhyme scheme conforming to or approximating one of two main types- the Italian or the English |
| 1. **Stanza**   A group of poetic lines corresponding to |
| 1. **Stereotype**   A character who is so ordinary and unoriginal that he or she seems to have been cast in a mold |
| 1. **Stock character**   A flat character in a standard role with standard traits such as the irate police captain or the sadistic criminal  Stereotypical flat character |
| 1. **Structure**   The arrangement and placement of ... |
| 1. **Syllogism**   Formula or pattern for logical presentation of argument; Reasoning from the general to the specific; deduction; A form of deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise, a minor premise and a conclusion |
| 1. **Symbol, symbolism**   A specific word, idea ... |
| 1. **Synecdoche (syn – neck- doh- key)**   A figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole; substituting a more inclusive term for a less inclusive one or vice versa;  figure of speech where on part represents the entire object (Example: All hands on deck; lend me your ears.) |
| 1. **Syntax**   Way that words are put together to form clauses; study of the rules for forming grammatical sent; systematic orderly arrangement |
| 1. **Tactile imagery**   Images of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and responses to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 1. **Tall Tale**   A type of folk literature characterized by humorous exaggeration and outlandish plot details   1. **Tenor**   The ideas conveyed in a ... |
| 1. **Thesis statement**   An introductory sentence which names the topics to be developed in the body of an essay; plan that lists the major topics in order of development in the essay |
| 1. **Third-person objective point of view *see also* dramatic *or* objective point of view**   3rd person narration reporting speech and action but excluding commentary on the actions and thoughts of the characters |
| 1. **Third-person point of view**   3rd person method of narration in which the speaker or narrator is not a part of the story, unlike the involvement of the narration of a 1st person point of view  because the 3rd person speaker may exhibit great knowledge and understanding, together with other qualities of a character, he or she is often virtually identified with the author, but this identity is not easily decided |
| 1. **Tone**   The techniques and modes of presentation that reveal or create attitudes the writers’ or speaker’s attitude toward his subject his audience or himself; the emotional coloring or emotional meaning of a work |
| 1. **Tragedy**   A play, novel or other narrative depicting serious and important events, in which the main character comes to an unhappy end  The main character is usually dignified, courageous and often high ranking; downfall may be caused by a tragic flaw |
| 1. **Understatement**   The deliberate underplaying or undervaluing of an assertion or idea to create emphasis; a figure of speech that consists of saying less than one means or of saying what one means with less force than the occasion warrants |
| 1. **Universal symbol**   A symbol that is recognized and ... |
| 1. **Unreliable speaker**   A fictional narrator who may have ulterior motives or whose intelligence is limited; the account of an unreliable speaker is therefore unreliable and subject to interpretation |
| 1. **Verbal irony**   A figure of speech in which what is said is the opposite of what is meant; language stressing the importance of an idea by stating the opposite of what is meant |
| 1. **Verisimilitude *see also* realism**   A characteristic whereby the setting, circumstances, characters, dialogue, actions and outcomes in a work are designed to seem true, lifelike, real, plausible and probable |
| 1. **Vernacular**   dialect – a way of speaking that is characteristic of a particular region or group of people   1. **Versification**   Prosody; The sounds and rhythms of poetry |
| 1. **Visual image**   Suggests a mental picture; language describing visual objects and situations |
| 1. **Voice**   Speaker- the narrator of a story of poem; the point of view, often an independent character who is completely imagined and consistently maintained by the author. In addition to narrator, the essential events of the work, the speaker may also introduce other aspects of his or her knowledge and may interject judgments and opinions; tone and speech of characters |