

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

1	acronym	abbreviation made usually from first letters	FBI, NASA, ABBA, FEMA
2	act	major division in the action of a play – indicates change in time, characters, place, mood...	usually 1 – 3 acts in today's plays – 5 acts ancient times (Greek) to the 1800s.
3	adage	proverb or wise saying made familiar from years of use	do unto others as you wish them to do unto you
4	adaptation	a work in a different genre from its original	Broadway version of <i>Legally Blonde</i> (movie originally)
5	address	formal speech or statement with serious intent	President's Address to the Union
6	allegory	narrative with both a literal and figurative interpretation	fables, parables <i>Animal Farm</i>
7	alliteration	repetition of an initial consonant <u>sound</u> in a sequence of words	"I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet." (Frost)
8	allusion	brief mention or reference to a person, place, thing, place, idea	"Christy didn't like to spend money. She was no Scrooge, but she seldom purchased anything except the bare necessities".
9	ambiguity	promotes 2 or more simultaneous interpretations	ending of <i>The Giver</i>
10	anachronism	using an event, person, object, language, etc. when it was not in existence	Scrooge's digital alarm clock buzzed three times.
11	anagram	word/phrase made from the letters of another word/phrase	heart – earth death - hatred
12	analogy	comparison of 2 pairs which have the same relationship	hot:cold::fire:ice
13	anaphora	deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive paragraphs, sentences, phrases, etc.	Not time, not money, not laws, but willing diligence will get this done.
14	antagonist	opponent to the protagonist – not always evil	
15	antihero	protagonist who has nontraditional attributes	
16	antithesis	contrast or opposition of 2 ideas in parallel or balanced construction - antithesis is the 2 nd part of statement.	Brutus: Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.
17	aphorism	BRIEF statement of moral or principle	Haste makes waste.
18	appositive	noun placed next to another noun to help describe or clarify	Henry Jameson, <u>the boss of the operation</u> , always wore a red baseball cap.
19	apostrophe	an address to someone not present or to something nonhuman	"Oh, Death, be not proud." by John Donne But all such reasons notwithstanding, <u>dear reader</u> , does not the cost in lives persuade you by itself ...
20	archetype	universal symbols – incidents, plots and characters that repeat	heroes, monsters, quests <i>The Odyssey</i>

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

		daily patterns of life	
21	argument	reasoning is used to bring about change/influence	pro/con driving age to 21
22	aside	comments to audience that is not audible to other characters/actors	Shakespearean plays
23	assonance	repetition of internal vowel sounds in nearby words that do not end the same	"Strips of tinfoil winking like people" (Sylvia Plath, "The Bee Meeting")
24	autobiography	someone's account of his/her life	
25	ballad	traditionally a song that has passed through generations until it is written down as a narrative – imitates language and rhythm of original song	<i>The Night Before Christmas</i> (C. Moore) <i>Casey Jones</i>
26	bildungsroman	"coming of age" story	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
27	biography	an account of someone's life written by another person	
28	blank verse	unrhymed iambic pentameter – closest to natural rhythms of speech	Shakespeare
29	cacophony	unintentional or deliberate language that may sound harsh or be difficult to pronounce	John Updike's " <i>Player Piano</i> " "never my numb plunker fumbles"
30	caesura	pause in line of poetry that provides a pause/break in rhythm (often in middle of line – sometimes indicated by punctuation)	<i>To err is human; to forgive, divine</i> scansion mark Alas how changed! What sudden horrors rise! A naked lover bound and bleeding lies! Where, where was Eloise? her voice, her hand, Her poniard, had opposed the dire command. (Pope)
31	carpe diem	"seize the day" – common literary theme (esp. in lyrical poetry)	
32	catastrophe	scene in tragedy where protagonist dies or is morally destroyed	Takes place in Act 5 of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies
33	catharsis	audience's release of emotions at end of tragedy – affirms what is moral	Oedipus discovers that his wife Jocasta is also his mother, and that the stranger he killed was his father.
34	character	developed by author through show and tell	protagonist, antagonist, static or dynamic characters, flat or round characters, stock characters, minor characters
35	chiasmus	reverse parallelism – 2 nd part of a structure is grammatically opposite to the first part (think X) usually ABBA order	Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. (JFK)
36	chorus	in Greek tragedy, a group of spectators who comment on characters, themes, and actions	phased out by 16 th century – sometimes a play will now have a narrator who provides the prologue

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

			and epilogue
37	cliché	trite expression – often dead metaphor	"I can make a difference."
38	climax	decisive moment in literature that determines the outcome – in writing, it means to arrange ideas in order of increasing importance	
39	colloquialism	casual conversation, often with slang expressions	y'all" or "gonna" or "wanna"
40	comedy	work intended to amuse or entertain readers – it ends happily for characters	high comedy, low comedy, romantic comedy (<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>)
41	comic relief	light moment in a serious work that alleviates tension	may use a pun like "You'll find me tomorrow a grave man." (says Mercutio as he dies in <i>Romeo & Juliet</i>)
42	conceit	notion expressed through analogy or metaphor that may serve as framework for a poem	Students are sailors on a journey; teachers are their captains, and hard work is their northern star.
43	conflict	struggle between opposing forces; protagonist v. antagonist (man, nature, himself, society, concept)	
44	connotation	implied (beyond literal) meaning of a word	eagle = liberty and freedom (more than a bird definition)
45	consonance	near rhyme where the identical consonant sound is preceded by different vowel sounds	home –same stuff – off
46	convention	familiar characteristic or technique used by a literary genre	- plays have acts and scenes - novels often have flashbacks and foreshadowing
47	couplet	2 consecutive lines of poetry with same meter, often rhyme, and express 1 thought. Favorite form of 18 th century. WS ended sonnets with a couplet.	Heroic couplets are in iambic pentameter. So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long as lives this, and this gives life to thee. (Shakespeare)
48	crisis	turning point – opposing forces face one another in decisive action that leads to climax	
49	demi-entendre	an expression, often nonsensical, composed from 2 familiar expressions	It gave me pause. + It gave me food for thought. = It gave me pause for thought.
50	denotation	dictionary, literal meaning of a word	
51	denouement	resolution of plot	
52	description	careful detailing using sensory information	
53	deus ex machina	In ancient Greek and Roman plays, a deity brought in by stage machinery to intervene in the action -Today it refers to any uncon-	an angel appears who allows a dead character to relive the last 24 hours of his life In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , the lovers are stopped by their parents from being

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

		vincing character or event brought artificially into the plot of a story of drama to settle an involved situation.	together. The <i>dues ex machina</i> would be the poison that Juliet takes. It is introduced into the story as a solution that is not alluded to previously. It is also the major event in the ending of the story.
54	dialect	speech patterns that represent a particular region, socio-economic group, or social class – authors use these to make characters believable	standard and nonstandard English
55	dialogue	verbal exchange of ideas	
56	diction	writer's choice of words (formal, informal, colloquial, poetic)	since 18 th century, not as much of a distinction between types of diction
57	doggerel	negative term for poetry that is trite with monotonous rhyme/rhythm	Said the big red rooster to the little brown hen, "You haven't laid an egg Since goodness knows when." Said the little brown hen to the big red rooster, "You don't come along As often as you used to."
58	doppelganger	ghostly double of a character – doesn't need to look like its counterpart – usually a bad omen	<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> (Stevenson)
59	double entendre	double meaning – usually it infers something risqué	"The Most Dangerous Game", by Richard Connell, the title can refer both to the "game" that is most dangerous to <i>hunt</i> , and "game" that is most dangerous to <i>play</i> .
60	drama	single play, group of plays or all plays – convention of theater	
61	dramatic irony	the audience/reader knows something that a character does not know – this changes the intended meaning of a spoken line or action	Romeo and Juliet – audience knows that the families are enemies from the time they meet even though the characters do not know this.
62	dramatic monologue	<i>dramatic</i> in the sense of theatrical quality – poem is meant to be read to an audience. <i>monologue</i> – the words of 1 solitary speaker with no dialogue coming from any other characters. The poem usually implies that the speaker is mainly talking to a specific person(s).	"My Last Duchess," by Robert Browning Even had you skill In speech—(which I have not)—to make your will Quite clear to such an one, and say, 'Just this Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss, Or there exceed the mark' — and if she let Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set Her wits to yours, forsooth, and made excuse, —E'en then would be some stooping...
63	electra complex	female version of Oedipus Complex – psychological problems when a daughter competes with her mother for her father's attention	From the play by the same name – <i>Electra</i> by Sophocles

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

64	elegy	mournful and thoughtful lyric poem written to commemorate the dead	a dirge is a short elegy that is usually sung
65	ellipsis	refers to what has been left out	usually indicated with a series of 3 periods ...
66	end-stopped line	poetic line with a pause at its end – often indicated by a punctuation mark	Keats "Endymion" (the natural pause coincides with the end of the line, and is marked by a period) <i>A thing of beauty is a joy forever.</i>
67	enjambment	the grammatical sense runs from one line of poetry to the next without pause or punctuation; opposite of end-stopped line.	1 st 2 lines of Wordsworth's "My Heart Leaps Up" demonstrates enjambment: <i>My heart leaps up when I behold A rainbow in the sky</i>
68	epic	long narrative poem, focuses on serious subjects and heroic deeds that are important to a culture or a nation	The Odyssey (Homer)
69	epigram	brief, witty, satirical poem – often written in rhyming couplets but has no prescribed form	What is an Epigram? A dwarfish whole; Its body brevity, and wit its soul. — Samuel Taylor Coleridge Little strokes Fell great oaks. — Benjamin Franklin Here lies my wife: here let her lie! Now she's at rest — and so am I. — John Dryden "Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives"
70	epigraph	a quotation at the beginning of a short story, poem, novel chapter, etc. – usually is thematically related - not part of the work so it does not need quotation marks	American Poet Laureate Billy Collins often uses a conversational style uses this epigraph: "Public restrooms give me the willies," to his poem titled "The Willies."
71	epilogue	concluding statement or section of a literary work	In Ian McEwan's novel <i>Atonement</i> , the epilogue, or final chapter, completely changes our reading of the book.
72	epiphany	character experiences a deep realization or a truth is grasped during an ordinary moment	
73	epitaph	inscription on headstone or verse written in honor of a death	Shakespeare's epitaph Good Friend for Jesus sake forebear To dig the dust enclosed here; Blest be the man that spares these stones, And curst be he that moves my bones.
74	epithet	word/phrase attached to a subject (often repeated) that helps the reader to remember clearly	<i>The Odyssey</i> – "rosy-fingered dawn" "heartfelt thanks," "wine-red sea," "blood-red sky," "fleet-footed Achilles," "stone-cold heart"
75	eponym	name of famous person who is recognized for a particular attribute is used instead of the attribute itself	Calling someone who is stingy a Scrooge – Calling someone with a high IQ the next Einstein –
76	essay	relatively short piece of prose	

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

		that expresses a particular point-of-view about a limited subject	
77	euphemism	substitution of a less offensive expression for that which may be harsh and hurtful	wardrobe malfunction (Justin Timberlake's tearing of Janet Jackson's top at Super Bowl half-time show) <i>lame</i> → <i>crippled</i> → <i>handicapped</i> → <i>disabled</i> → <i>physically challenged</i>
78	euphony	smooth language that is pleasant to the ear	He was not then known as Wing Biddlebaum, but went by the less euphonic name of Adolph Myers. <i>Winesberg, Ohio</i> by Sherwood Anderson - <i>O star (the fairest one in sight)</i>
79	expletive	an interrupting single word or short phrase that provides emphasis (usually to what comes before/after it)	in fact, of course, indeed, I think, without doubt, to be sure, naturally, it seems, after all, for all that, in brief, on the whole, in short, to tell the truth
80	exposition	narrative device that provides necessary character and story background	
81	extended metaphor	metaphor that extends beyond 1 sentence – from a paragraph to an entire work	In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Juliet's mother compares Paris to a fine book – it is an entire speech from her "The winds were ocean waves, thrashing against the trees' limbs. The gales remained thereafter, only ceasing when the sun went down. Their waves clashed brilliantly with the water beneath, bringing foam and dying leaves to the shore."
82	fable	brief tale to teach a moral or lesson about life (what to do or not do) – characters are usually animals with human-like attributes – not allegorical because each animal is not symbolic itself	Aesop
83	falling action	narrative convention that includes the events after the climax	
84	farce	humor based on rapid shifts of action and emotions – improbable action creates humor	slapstick comedy would be labeled as farcical – you can have a farcical character in a comedy
85	figures of speech	using language that deviates from denotative, literal meanings	
86	flashback	scene breaks the natural order to inform audience about a character's background or previous events	In <i>Cold Case</i> each episode begins with a flashback scene informing viewers of the year in which it takes place. Most of the story "A Rose for Emily"

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

			is a flashback since the narrator is thinking about Emily before her death which occurs at the beginning of the story.
87	foil	character whose behaviors contrast another character in order to better understand that other character (usually the protagonist)	- Watson in the Sherlock Holmes stories - The "straight man" in a comedy duo is a comic foil. The straight man portrays a reasonable and serious character while the other portrays a funny or simply unorthodox one
88	foot	metrical unit of poetry – 1 stressed and 1 or 2 unstressed syllables	<u>iambic</u> = 1 unstress + 1 stress <u>trochaic</u> = 1 stress + 1 unstress <u>anapestic</u> = 2 unstress + 1 stress <u>dactylic</u> = 1 stress + 2 unstress <u>spondee</u> = 2 stress syllables
89	foreshadowing	verbal and dramatic hints of future events	Pip meeting the convict Magwitch in the graveyard at the beginning of Great Expectations (Dickens)
90	form	structure of a piece	narrative form, verse form
91	formula literature	follows a pattern of conventional expectations of the reader – often have happy or boy gets girl endings	romance novels, westerns, mysteries
92	found poem	unintentional poem in a nonpoetic context	
93	framing	way in which a subject is positioned which produces various interpretations	usually used with cameras, but is also used with words
94	framework story	narrative contains another narrative – each adds to other and 1 is usually important to outcome of the other	Most Dickens novels
95	free verse	open form poetry – nonconforming to usual conventions of rhythm, rhyme, meter....	20 th century poets Carl Sandburg, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and William Carlos Williams
96	genre	type of literature	fiction, drama, poetry, essays OR comedy, tragedy, epic, science fiction...
97	gobbledygook	jargon-cluttered prose	"To the ordinary guy all this is a bunch of gobbledygook . But out of the gobbledygook comes a very clear thing: you can't trust the government; you can't believe what they say, and you can't rely on their judgment. And the implicit infallibility of presidents, which has been an accepted thing in America, is badly hurt by this, because it shows that people do things the president wants to do even though it's wrong, and the president can be wrong." (Haldeman 1971)
98	haiku	Japanese-style lyric poetry with 17 syllables organized into 3 unrhymed lines of 5, 7, 5 syllables.	
99	hamartia	the fall of a noble man caused by some excess or mistake in	Creon orders his men to properly bury Polynices before releasing

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

		behavior, not because of a willful violation of the gods' laws	Antigone which can be identified as the mistake or error that led to her death. Creon's own ignorance causes the hamartia that results in Antigone's death.
100	homage	allusion that pays tribute to another text	It's appropriate that we pay homage to them and the sacrifices they made.
101	hubris	excessive pride – hubris is a form of hamartia	Creon in <i>Antigone</i>
102	hyperbole	exaggeration, overstatement used for serious or comic effect	I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
103	idiom	verbal expression	piece of cake (easy) How come? (Why?)
104	image	word, phrase or sentence that conveys the 5 senses	figures of speech are often images
105	inversion	reversal of usual order for effect	Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines, And often is his gold complexion dimmed (Shakespeare, <i>Sonnet 18</i>) (instead of: Sometime the eye of heaven shines too hot and his gold complexion is often dimmed)
106	in media res	narrative begins in the middle of the story	<i>The Odyssey</i>
107	irony	contradiction used to reveal a reality different from what appears to be true	Verbal Irony Dramatic Irony Situational Irony
108	lampoon	satire ridiculing the appearance or character of a person	<i>Saturday Night Live</i> <i>The Daily Show</i> <i>Stephen Colbert</i>
109	limerick	light, humorous poem 5 lines with rhyme scheme of aabba – lines 1, 2, 5 have 3 meters and lines 3, 4 have 2 meters	There was a young lady from Jersey Who thought
110	lyric	brief poem that expresses the personal thoughts and emotions of one speaker – in 1 st person	monologues, elegies, haiku, odes and sonnets are lyrical
111	malapropism	substituting a similar sounding word for what was intended	A rolling stone gathers no moth.
112	medium	compositional format of text to be conveyed	
113	melodrama	work relies on implausible events and sensational action – usually end happily with the good guy winning at the last moment	
114	metaphor	comparison of 2 things without using the words like or as	implied metaphors extended metaphors metonymy and synecdoche
115	metonymy	word represents something else which it suggests	We have always remained loyal to the crown." "He is a man of the cloth"

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

116	monologue	long, uninterrupted speech by a character with others listening	
117	motif	reoccurring concept or element in literature	despairing lover, conquering hero, or wicked stepmother.
118	myth	unverifiable story that is based on religious beliefs	
119	narrative	telling of a story	
120	narrative poem	poem that tells a story – short or long – simple or complex	"The Death of a Hired Man" (Robert Frost)
121	narrator	voice of person telling the story – not necessarily the author	usually 1 st person, 3 rd person narrative and 3 rd person omniscient
122	nemesis	poetic justice – or the deliverer of such justice – exacts vengeance	In mythology, Nemesis was the patron goddess of vengeance
123	neologism	newly coined word	emoticon, carjacking, to blade (v)
124	nonfiction	prose narrative that is true and factual	most common forms are autobiography and biography
125	novella	fictional prose that is longer than a story but shorter than a novel	usually between 20,000 – 50,000 words but there is no set length <i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck
126	ode	lengthy lyric poem focusing on one of life's themes - no prescribed pattern	themes include the meaning of life, truth, justice...
127	Oedipus complex	psychological complex where a son competes with his father for his mother's affection – the son goes so far as to eliminate him	Oedipus – father to Antigone
128	onomatopoeia	word resembles the sound it denotes – can be 1 word, or a line or a paragraph	No one talks in these factories. Everyone is too busy. The only sounds are the <u>snip, snip</u> of scissors and the <u>hum</u> of sewing machines
129	oxymoron	2 contradictory words are used together – a small version of a paradox	sweet sorrow or original copy
130	palindrome	word, line, poem that reads the same forwards and backwards.	Never odd or even
131	pangram	series of words that contain all 26 letters of the alphabet	The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog Mr. Jock, TV quiz PhD, bags few lynx.
132	parable	story that reveals a principle, moral lesson, or truth – teaches by comparisons to life	"The Prodigal Son" and "The Good Samaritan"
133	paradigm	a way of thinking and problem-solving about issues	Have a paradigm shift! Think outside of the box!
134	paradox	statement that at first seems contradictory but does make sense	All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. (<i>Animal Farm</i>)
135	parallel structure	repetition of syntax using the same structure	The world will little not nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. (Abraham Lincoln)

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

136	paraphrase	restatement in your own words	
137	parenthesis	an explanatory or qualifying word, clause, or sentence	People tell me she is beautiful - she knows it is true - and this makes her uneasy.
138	pathos	<p>Appeal based on emotion uses Vivid, concrete language Emotionally loaded language Connotative meanings Emotional examples Vivid descriptions Narratives of emotional events Emotional tone Figurative language</p> <p>Pathos is related to the words pathetic, sympathy and empathy. Whenever you accept a claim based on how it makes you feel without fully analyzing the rationale behind the claim, you are acting on pathos. They may be any emotions: love, fear, patriotism, guilt, hate or joy. Appeals to pathos touch a nerve and compel people to not only listen, but to also take the next step and act in the world.</p>	<p>A baby turtle breaks free from the leathery shell of its egg, catching its first glimpse of its first sunrise. It pauses a moment to rest, unaware of the danger that lies so close to it. As the tide comes in, approaching the nest, it also approaches a small pile of metal - cesium. The water draws closer and closer, the turtle unsuspecting of the danger. Finally, the water touches the cesium. The nest is torn to bits in the resulting explosion, destroying even more of an endangered species. Why does this happen? One name: Acme.</p> <p>http://www.rpi.edu/dept/llc/webclass/web/project1/group4/env.html</p>
139	parody	humorous imitation of a work – usually serious – the purpose is to deflate and ridicule the subject matter – it can also be a good-hearted mocking	Weird Al Yankovic, "White and Nerdy"--parody of "Ridin'" by Chamillionaire
140	personification	nonhuman things display human characteristics	"Even the dirt kept breathing a small breath." <i>Root Cellar</i> by Theodore Roethke
141	persuasion	discourse to promote change in the audience	
142	picture poem	open form poetry - the poet arranges the lines of the poem to create a particular shape	
143	pleonasm	using more words than required – redundancy – usually considered negative but can be used for emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have seen no stranger sight since I was born. ▪ Past experience ▪ Advance planning
144	plot	arrangement of incidents to create a story – includes rising action, climax, and falling action	
145	point of view	perspective from which the story is told – 1 st person narrator, 3 rd person omniscient, 3 rd person limited	
146	prologue	opening speech – usually gives exposition – today it is usually referred to as the introduction	<p>Sonnet at the beginning of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i></p> <p>"Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona where we lay</p>

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

			our scene....”
147	prose poem	open form poetry that is printed as prose – usually short with information compacted and strong figurative language	
148	prosody	systematic study of versification, i.e. the principles and practice of meter, rhyme and stanza forms, sometimes the term “prosody” includes the study of sound effects such as alliteration, assonance, or onomatopoeia	
149	protagonist	main character who engages the interest and empathy of reader – must overcome opposing force	
150	pseudonym	pen name, false name, nom de plume	Samuel Clemens = Mark Twain
151	pun	play on words that relies on a particular word having more than 1 meaning or sounding like another word – used in both tragedy and comedy	Since 18 th century, used solely in comedy Romeo and Juliet – Mercutio says after being stabbed, “Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man.”
152	quatrain	4-line stanza in poem	
153	recognition	moment in when all is revealed to protagonist	
154	refrain	word, phrase, line or group of lines regularly repeated in poem	usually at end of stanza
155	repetition	repeating of words, lines, stanzas not necessarily in a particular pattern	I'm nobody! Who are you? Are you nobody too? Then there's a pair of us-don't tell! They'd banish us you know. (Emily Dickinson)
156	resolution	conclusion of a plot's conflicts and complications – often sets new direction for protagonist	
157	reversal	point in story where protagonist's fortune takes an unexpected direction	
158	rhetorical question	A question posed for rhetorical effect, usually with a self-evident answer	
159	rhyme	repetition of identical or very similar concluding syllables in words usually at end of lines – function of sound – not spelling	<i>Couplet</i> : a pair of rhyming lines <i>Eye rhyme</i> : words whose spellings look like they rhyme (slough, tough, cough, bough, though, hiccough). <i>Feminine rhyme</i> : 2-syllable rhyme with stressed syllable followed by unstressed (butter, clutter; gratitude, attitude) <i>Masculine rhyme</i> : rhyming of 1-syllable

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

			words (grade, shade) Also occurs in rhyming words of > 1 syllable, when the same sound occurs in a final stressed syllable, (defend, contend; betray, away)
160	rhythm	pattern of stressed/unstressed syllables	
161	rising action	begins with exposition, introduces conflict and takes reader through complications – ends at climax	
162	round characters	stock characters who have been developed and not easily defined - complex	Frodo Baggins of J. R. R. Tolkien's <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> ,
163	sarcasm	criticism where disapproval is expressed as ironic praise	You drop a lunch tray and a stranger says, "Well, that was really intelligent."
164	satire	ridicule in order to expose or correct vice – a human frailty, people, institutions...all are subjects	Jonathan Swift - <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> and <i>A Modest Proposal</i> . <i>The Onion</i> and <i>The Daily Show</i> , satires of the American news media
165	scansion	process of measuring stresses to determine meter/rhythm	vertical scansion → rhyme scheme horizontal scansion → meter
166	scene	a subdivision of an act – changes characters or locations	
167	science fiction	genre emerged in 19 th century with advanced technology – question of man's relation to himself, to knowledge and to the Universe	<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> (Bradbury)
168	script	written text of play – usually includes stage directions	
169	sestet	6-line stanza	2 nd stanza of a sonnet
170	sestina	36 lines ÷ into 6 sestets (no specific length of lines) + 3-line conclusion called an envoy 6 words at end of 1 st sestet must be repeated at the ends of next 5 sestets but in a different order each time – those same 6 words should be repeated often (individually) in the text of poem	- Algernon Charles Swinburne's <i>Sestina</i> (which boldly rhymes its 6 words - "day", "night", "way", "light", "may", and "delight"); - Rudyard Kipling's <i>Sestina of the Tramp Royal</i> (whose 6 words are "all", "world", "good", "long", "done", and "die"); - Ezra Pound's tremendous <i>Sestina: Altaforte</i> (whose 6 words are "peace", "music", "clash", "opposing", "crimson", and "rejoicing").
171	setting	time, place, and social environment that frames story	
172	short story	shorter than novel – literary elements (plot, setting, characters) used in a more compressed manner	length from shortest to longest: short story, novelette, novella, novel
173	simile	comparison of 2 UNLIKE things by using words like, as, seems, appears, than...comparison must be figurative, not literal	<u>Simile</u> = "A sip of Mrs. Cook's coffee is like a punch in the stomach." <u>Not Simile</u> = Mrs. Cook's coffee is as strong as the cafeteria's coffee."
174	soliloquy	a character alone on stage	Hamlet's "To be, or not to be..."

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

		shares personal thoughts aloud	
175	sonnet	fixed form of lyric poetry – 14 lines using iambic pentameter and a rhyme scheme	Shakespearean (or English) = 3 quatrains + couplet abab cdcd efef gg Italian (or Petrarchan) = 1 octave + 1 sestet abbaabba (cdecde, cdcdcd, or cdccdc)
176	spoonerism	shuffling of the first letters of words to create something nonsensical	A blushing crow / a crushing blow Tons of soil / sons of toil
177	stage directions	playwright's directions to the actors	
178	stanza	grouping of lines in a poem – may have a pattern of rhyme/meter	
179	stock responses	predictable responses to a character, language, symbols or situations	often used with less sophisticated audiences
180	stream of consciousness	intense look at the mind of a character to reveal perceptions, thoughts, and feelings unconsciously or consciously	uninterrupted flow of thoughts – structurally may use fragments instead of sentences
181	stress	emphasis given to syllable in pronunciation	
182	style	manner used by writer to achieve certain effects – also, brings uniqueness to the writer's style	word choice, sentence structures and lengths, figures of speech...
183	subplot	secondary plot which complements the main plot or is extraneous to it – one or more of these may be in a novel	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> – the Capulet/Montague feud is a subplot which complements the main plot
184	syllabus	outline of major points	
185	symbol	person, object, image, word, or event that evokes meaning beyond the literal – symbols are used to communicate a point without belaboring it	name, character, word, setting, behavior and action in writing can be a symbol if it means more than its literal context – Liberty Bell represents freedom, the letter A on Hester's chest means adultery (<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>)
186	synecdoche	figure of speech where a part represents the whole	Get those blades back on the ice. 50 head of cattle
187	syntax	ordering of words in order to develop meaningful patterns of phrases, clauses and sentences	A poet may change the syntax from the norm to fit the meter or rhyme of a line
188	synthesis	opposite of analysis; unifies two parts into a whole	
189	tautology	repetition of an idea in a different word, phrase, or sentence	<i>cool, calm, and collected to all intents and purposes null and void</i>
190	tercet	a 3-line stanza or poem haiku	Do not go gentle into that good night, Old age should burn and rave at

Quick Reference Rhetorical, Literary, and Grammatical Terms

			close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light. - Dylan Thomas, <i>Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night</i>
191	theme	central meaning or dominant idea in a literary work – not the same as subject	abstract concept that is made concrete through images, characterizations and action
192	thesis	central idea of an essay	
193	Tom Swifty	a phrase in which a quoted sentence is linked by a pun to the manner in which it is attributed. Tom Swifties may be considered a type of Wellerism.	"I only have diamonds, clubs and spades," said Tom heartlessly. "They had to amputate them both at the ankles," Tom said defeatedly
194	tone	author's attitude as revealed through the elements of the author's style	serious or ironic, sad or happy, private or public, angry or affectionate, bitter or nostalgic
195	tragedy	recount an individual's downfall – begin high and end low	Shakespeare's tragedies
196	transition	in narration allows the reader to move smoothly and logically from one point to the next – keeps the text natural and clear	
197	trilogy	text with 3 parts but each is complete within itself	original trilogy and prequel trilogy of <i>Star Wars</i>
198	understatement	opposite of hyperbole – a figure of speech that says less than is intended – often ironic	"Well, that's cast rather a gloom over the evening, hasn't it?" (Dinner guest, following visit from the Grim Reaper, in Monty Python's <i>The Meaning of Life</i>)
199	Utopian novel	presents ideal society where all problems have been solved	<i>Animal Farm, The Giver</i>
200	verisimilitude	appearance of truth; the quality of seeming to be true	The rabbits in <i>Watership Down</i> appear true to the reader
201	vernacular	native language of people in a country or region of one	
202	verse	a generic term used to describe poetic lines composed in a measured rhythmical pattern	Dr. Seuss
203	versification	the structural form of a verse as revealed by scansion - includes the name of the meter and the name designating number of feet	iambic pentameter
204	yarn	tale or a story usually improbable and most likely exaggerated	