

## Literary Glossary

**Antagonist:** The entity that acts to frustrate the goals of the protagonist

Example:

**Apostrophe:** A direct address to an object, to an idea, or to an absent or dead person.

Example:

**Blank Verse:** Verse written in unrhymed iambic pentameter -/ -/ -/ -/ -/

**Character:** Any person, animal, or other being that plays a role in a story

**Climax:** In a narrative, the moment at which the conflict reaches its highest dramatic tension

**Connotation:** The figurative meanings of a word

**Couplet:** Two consecutive rhyming lines of poetry.

Example:

**Denotation:** The literal, dictionary meanings of a word

**Doppelganger:** A mysterious figure, often haunting, which is in some way the double of another character.

**Dramatic Irony:** Any situation in which the audience understands more about the characters' words or actions than the characters do themselves

Example:

**Epiphany:** A sudden, powerful, and often spiritual or life changing realization

Example:

**Figure of Speech:** Any expression that stretches the meaning of words beyond their literal meanings

**Foil:** A character who, by comparison, brings the characteristics of another character into relief

Example:

**Foreshadowing:** Any clue or hint of future events in a literary work.

Example:

**Hubris:** Excessive pride that leads to the protagonist's downfall.

Example:

**Hyperbole:** Any kind of exaggeration.

**Iambic Pentameter:** Each line of verse has five iambic feet (unstressed syllable followed by stressed syllable).

**Irony:** The use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning.

**Metaphor:** A comparison of two things that **does not use the words “Like” or “As”**.

Example:

**Monologue:** A speech of a single character. If the character is alone on the stage, the monologue is called a **soliloquy** and may represent the thoughts of the character.

**Oxymoron:** The association of two conflicting terms, as in the word “bittersweet”.

**Personification:** The attribution of personal or human characteristics to animals, things, or ideas.

**Plot:** The arrangement of events in a narrative, including their order, their relative emphasis, and the implied causal connections between them.

**Protagonist:** The main character in a literary work. Typically the protagonist undergoes some kind of change or development over the course of the story.

**Satire:** A work that exposes to ridicule the shortcomings of individuals, institutions, or society, often to make a political point.

**Setting:** Time and place of a story

**Sonnet:** A type of poem

**Subplot:** A secondary plot. A subplot serves as a point of contrast or comparison to the main plot

**Symbol:** An object, character, image, or another element that represents an abstract idea or concept.

Example:

**Theme:** The fundamental and often universal idea explored in a literary work

**Tragedy:** A serious play that ends unhappily for the protagonist.

**Tragic Flaw:** The flaw that leads to the downfall of a tragic character.