



GLOSSARY

Absolute phrase: A noun phrase with one modifier, often a participial phrase, following the noun headword. An absolute phrase can explain a cause or condition. Ex: *The temperature having dropped suddenly, we decided to build a fire in the fireplace*, or it can add a detail or a point of focus, Ex: *The children rushed out the schoolhouse door, their voices filling the playground with shouts of freedom*.

Adages/proverbs: Short sayings that describe what is perceived to be an important fact or familiar wisdom.

Adjectival: Any structure (word, phrase, or clause) that fills the role of an adjective and functions as an adjective normally does, modifying a noun. Ex: The house on the corner is new.

Adverbial: Any structure (word, phrase, or clause) that functions as a modifier of a verb and fills the role of an adverb. Ex: We drove to the airport to pick up Uncle Louie. *To the airport* is an adverbial prepositional phrase and *to pick up Uncle Louie* is an adverbial infinitive phrase, both modifying the verb *drove*.

Affix: A morpheme or a meaningful part of a word that is attached before or after a root to modify its meaning; a category that includes prefixes, suffixes, and infixes.

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds in words such as *Peter Piper picked*.

Allusion: Reference to a mythological, literary, or historical person, place, or thing.

Alternate claim: A statement that supports the same overall concept as the original claim but with a different goal.

Analogy: Comparison of two things to illustrate common aspects.

Anecdote: A short and interesting story or an amusing event delivered to demonstrate a point and make readers or listeners laugh.

Aphorism: A statement of some general principle expressed memorably by condensing a large amount of wisdom into very few words. Ex: “Give a man a mask and he will tell you the truth” (Wilde).

Argument: A logical way of presenting a belief, conclusion, or stance. Effective arguments are supported by reasoning and evidence.

Audience: A writer’s targeted reader or readers.

Author’s purpose: An author’s main reason for writing. A writer’s purpose may be to entertain, to inform, to persuade, to teach a moral lesson, or to reflect on an experience. An author may have more than one purpose for writing.

Autobiography: A written account of an author’s own life.

Biography: An account of a person’s life written by another person.

Blending: Combining parts of a spoken word into a whole representation of the word. For example, /p/ /oo/ /l/ can be blended together to form the word pool.

Cause and effect: Text structure in which the author presents one or more causes and then describes the resulting effects.

Central message (central idea): The main idea of a fictional text; the central message may be directly stated or implied.

Chronology: Text structure in which the author uses numerical or chronological order to present items or events.

Claim: An arguable statement that a writer asks a reader to accept.

Clause: A word group consisting of a subject and predicate.

Coherence: Continuity of meaning that enables others to make sense of a text.

Collaborative conversations: Opportunities for students to interact with a wide range of their peers to reflect on their own ideas, to reflect on the ideas of others, and to practice using academic language.

Comparative adjectives and adverbs: Adjectives or adverbs used to compare one person, thing, or group with another person, thing, or group.

Comparison and contrast: Text structure in which the author compares and contrasts two or more similar events, topics, or objects.

Concrete words and phrases: Words or phrases used to describe characteristics and/or qualities that can be perceived through the senses.

Conflict: A struggle or clash between opposing characters, forces, or emotions.

Conjunctive adverb: A conjunction with an adverbial emphasis that connects two clauses. Common conjunctive adverbs are *however*, *therefore*, *nevertheless*, and *moreover*. Ex: Chocolate is delicious; however, I try my best to stay away from it.

Connotation: Implicit rather than explicit meaning of a word. It consists of the suggestions, associations, and emotional overtones attached to a word.

Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (CVC) words: An example of a continuum of word type classified according to the level of decoding difficulty. CVC words are easily decodable. Ex: bat, mat, dog, pig.

Context: The language that surrounds a given word or phrase (linguistic context) or the field of meaningful associations that surround a given word or phrase (experiential context).

Conventions: The surface features of writing, including mechanics, usage, and sentence formation.

Coordinating conjunction: Used to show a relationship between words, phrases, or clauses. Ex: 1) The flag was red, white, and blue; 2) Small but strong, Jamie won first place.

Correlative conjunction: Conjunction used to join words, phrases, or clauses. Ex: Either Mary or Tori will cook dinner.

Decoding: Using knowledge of the conventions of spelling-sound relationships and knowledge about pronunciation of irregular words to derive a pronunciation of written words.

Demonstratives: Demonstrative pronouns and demonstrative adjectives modify nouns. Demonstrative adjectives indicate exactly which noun the speaker is referencing and where it is relative to the position of the speaker. Ex: These shoes are uncomfortable. Demonstrative pronouns take the place of a noun phrase. Ex: The bread you are eating is made from wheat. → That is made from wheat.

Denotation: Exact, literal definition of a word independent of any emotional association or secondary meaning.

Dependent clause: A clause that fills a role in a sentence (such as adverbial, adjectival, or nominal) and that cannot stand independently as a sentence. Ex: *He climbed until he was exhausted* (adverbial clause); *I wonder where I put my keys* (nominal clause functioning as a direct object).

Derivational suffix: A type of bound morpheme; a suffix, such as -ity, -ive, and -ly, that can change the part of speech of the root or base word to which it is added.

Description: Text structure that presents a topic, along with the attributes, specifics, or setting information that describes that topic.

Detail: Fact revealed by the author or speaker that supports the attitude or tone in a piece of poetry or prose. In informational texts, details provide information to support the author's main point.

Determiner: A structure-class word that marks or signals a noun; appears as the first word in a noun phrase before the noun and before any modifiers in the phrase. Ex: The telephone is a necessary invention.

Dialect: A distinctive variety of a language spoken by members of an identifiable regional group, nation, etc.

Dialogue: Spoken exchanges between characters in a dramatic or literary work, usually between two or more speakers.

Dictating: The process of writing down what someone else has said; a way for a parent or teacher to record a child's ideas when the writing demands surpass the child's writing skills.

Domain specific vocabulary: Words that are specific to a domain or field of study and key to understanding a new concept within a text. These words are often referred to as Tier Three words.

Drama: The general term for performances in which actors impersonate the actions and speech of fictional or historical characters (or non-human entities) for the entertainment of an audience, either on a stage or by means of a broadcast.

Emergent literacy and emergent reader texts: The skills, knowledge, and attitudes that are developmental precursors to conventional forms of reading and writing; emergent reader texts support the acquisition of these skills.

Euphemism: A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing.

Evidence: Supporting information a writer or speaker uses to prove a claim.

Explicit textual evidence: Information that is directly stated in a text.

Exposition: One of the classifications of discourse whose function is to inform, to instruct, or to present ideas and general truths. Exposition presents information, provides explanations and definitions, and compares and contrasts.

Fable: Brief story that teaches a moral or practical lesson about life.

Fantasy: Story employing imaginary characters living in fictional settings where the rules of the real world are altered for effect.

Fiction: Imaginative literary works representing invented rather than actual persons, places, and/or events.

Figurative language: An expression that departs from the accepted literal sense or from the normal order of words; an extension of this definition includes the use of sound for emphasis, including onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance, and consonance.

Firsthand account: An event or topic based on an author's personal experience. Examples include diaries, autobiographies, and letters.

Firsthand narration: Narration in which the narrator is either involved in or witnesses the events in a story.

Flashback: Scene that interrupts the action of a work to show a previous event.

Fluency: In reading, fluency refers to the ability to read with sufficient speed to support understanding.

Folktale: Short story from the oral tradition that reflects the mores and beliefs of a particular culture.

Formal English: A writing or speaking style characterized by traditional grammatical structure and conservative vocabulary.

Genre: Category used to classify literary and other works by form, technique, or content.

Grammar: The system and structure of a language.

Grapheme: A letter or letter combination that spells a phoneme; can be one, two, three, or four letters in English. (Ex: e, ei, igh, eigh).

Graphic: Pictorial representation of data or ideas using columns, matrices, or other formats.

High frequency words: A small group of words (300-500) that account for a large percentage of the words in print and can be regular or irregular words (i.e., Dolch or Fry). Often, they are referred to as “sight words” since automatic recognition of these words is required for fluent reading.

Idiom: a phrase or expression that differs from the literal meaning of the words.
Ex: It’s time to let the cat out of the bag.

Imagery: Multiple words or a continuous phrase that a writer uses to represent persons, objects, actions, feelings, and ideas descriptively by appealing to the senses.

Independent clause: A clause that can stand by itself as a simple sentence, can be combined with one or more independent clauses in a compound sentence, and can serve as the main clause in a complex sentence.

Ex:

The roof leaks.

The roof leaks, and the floor sags.

Whenever it rains, the roof leaks.

Inflection: A type of bound morpheme; a grammatical ending that does not change the part of speech of a word but marks its tense, number, or degree in English (e.g., -s, -ed, -ing).

Inference: Act or process of deriving logical conclusions from premises known or assumed to be true; the conclusions drawn from this process.

Informal discourse: Language characterized by non-technical vocabulary, simple sentence structure, and less formal language.

Informational texts: Nonfiction texts that contain facts and information; also referred to as expository texts.

Introductory elements: Clauses, phrases, and words that appear before the main clause in a sentence.

Irony: Tension that arises from the discrepancy, either between what one says and what one means (verbal irony), between what a character believes and what a reader knows (dramatic irony), or between what occurs and what one expects to occur (situational irony).

Irregular verb: A verb that does not form its past tense and past participle by adding -ed, -d, or -t, as regular verbs do. Ex: sing, sang, sung; go, went, gone.

Literary heritage: Works by authors whose writing influenced and continues to influence the public language, thinking, history, literary culture, and politics of a nation. These works comprise the literary and intellectual capital drawn on by later writers.

Letter sound correspondence (also sound symbol correspondences): The rules and patterns by which letters and letter combinations represent speech sounds.

Literary nonfiction: Text that conveys factual information. The text may or may not employ a narrative structure and characteristics such as dialogue. Additionally, literary nonfiction may also persuade, inform, explain, describe, or amuse.

Main idea: The central thought of a nonfiction text.

Memoir: Type of autobiography that usually focuses on a single time period or historical event.

Metaphor: A thing, idea, or action referred to by a word or expression normally reserved for another thing, idea, or action to suggest a common quality shared between the two. Ex: "All the world's a stage..."

Meter: The measured pattern of rhythmic accents in poems.

Modal auxiliary verb: A verb that combines with another verb to indicate mood or tense. Ex: I will go to the doctor next week.

Mood (a): The form of a verb that indicates the writer's attitude toward a statement as it is made. Ex: I wish I could go.

Mood (b): Atmosphere or predominant emotion in a literary work.

Morphology: The study of the meaningful units in a language and how they are combined in word formation.

Motivation: Circumstance or set of circumstances that prompt a character to act a certain way or that determine the outcome of a situation.

Multi-syllabic words: Words with more than one syllable. The average number of syllables in the words students read should increase steadily throughout the grades.

Myth: Traditional story accepted as history, which serves to explain the worldview of a people, usually in supernatural or imaginative terms.

Mythology: A body of related myths most often regarded as fictional stories containing deeper truths.

Narration: The process of relating a sequence of events.

Narrative: A story about fictional or real events.

Narrator: One who tells, or is assumed to be telling, the story in a given narrative.

Nuance: A subtle difference in meaning, expression, or sound.

Onset-rime: The natural division of a syllable into two parts, the onset coming before the vowel and the rime including the vowel and what follows it (e.g., pl-an, shr-ill).

Opinion piece: Writing in which a personal opinion is expressed about a topic. As grade levels progress, the writer must support a point of view with reasons and/or information.

Opposing claim: A statement that is the opposite of an original claim.

Oxymoron: A figure of speech that combines two usually contradictory terms in a compressed paradox, as in the word *bittersweet* or the phrase *living death*.

Pace: The speed and rhythm at which the events unfold in a story or scene. A variety of devices, such as structure and word choice, are used to control the speed and rhythm of a story or scene, and how quickly the story unfolds depends upon the needs of the story. A story unfolds more quickly during more intense scenes and within short stories or adventure stories.

Paradox: A statement or expression so surprisingly self-contradictory as to provoke the reader into seeking another sense or context in which it would be true. Wordsworth's line "the Child is the father of the Man" and Shakespeare's "the truest poetry is the most feigning" are literary examples.

Parallel plots: Correspondences between larger elements of dramatic or narrative works, such as the relation of a subplot, usually involving characters of lesser importance (and often of lower social status), to the main plot.

Parallel structure/Parallelism: Two or more of the same grammatical structures that are coordinated and given equal weight.

Paraphrase: A reader's own version of a writer's essential information.

Participial: A present or past participle together with its subject or complements and/or modifiers. Ex: Still clutching their pizza in their hands, the kids left the room.

Participle: The verb forms that appear in verb phrases after the auxiliary verbs *to be*, as in *I was eating* (present participle), and *to have*, as in *I have eaten* (past participle). Participle is also the term used to refer to the present or past participle in its role as an adjectival, as a modifier in a noun phrase. *The band members, wearing their snazzy new uniforms, proudly marched onto the field.*

Personification: Metaphor that gives inanimate objects or abstract ideas human characteristics.

Perspective: Position, stance, or viewpoint from which something is considered or evaluated.

Persuasion (persuasive writing): Form of discourse whose function is to convince an audience or to prove or refute a point of view of an issue.

Phoneme: A speech sound that combines with others in a language system to make words; English has 40 to 44 phonemes, according to various linguists.

Phoneme isolation: Recognizing individual sounds in a word (e.g., /p/ is the first sound in the word *pan*).

Phonemic awareness: The ability to notice, think about, or manipulate the individual phonemes (sounds) in words. It is the ability to understand that sounds in spoken language work together to make words. This term is used to refer to the highest level of phonological awareness: awareness of individual phonemes in words.

Phonetic spelling: The process of listening for each sound in a word and representing each sound with a letter or combination of letters.

Phonics: The study of the relationships between letters and the sounds they represent; the term is also used as a descriptor for code-based instruction in reading.

Phonological awareness: One's sensitivity to, or explicit awareness of, the phonological structure of words in one's language. This is an "umbrella" term that is used to refer to a student's sensitivity to any aspect of phonological structure in language. It encompasses awareness of individual words in sentences, syllables, and onset-rime segments as well as awareness of individual phonemes.

Plagiarism: The theft of ideas (such as the plots of narrative or dramatic works) or of written passages or works, where these are passed off as one's own work without acknowledgement of their true origin. Plagiarism is not easily separable from imitation, adaptation, or pastiche, but is usually distinguished by its dishonest intention.

Plot: Sequence of events or actions in a short story, novel, or narrative poem.

Point of View: Perspective or vantage point from which a literary work is told or the way in which the author reveals characters, actions, and ideas.

Precise language: Vivid, descriptive words that describe a topic.

Prefix: A morpheme that precedes a root and that contributes to or modifies the meaning of a word.

Problem/Solution: Text structure in which the main ideas are organized into two parts: a problem and a subsequent solution that responds to the problem, or a question and an answer that responds to the question.

Procedural text: Text that conveys information in the form of directions for accomplishing a task. A distinguishing characteristic of this text type is that it is composed of discrete steps to be performed in a strict sequence with an implicit end product or goal.

Progressive verb form: A verb form that indicates a continuing action or one that was in progress when something else occurred; consists of some form of the auxiliary verb *be* followed by a verb with *ing* on the end.

Prompting: Questions posed during reading to check for understanding.

Prose: A form of language that has no formal metrical structure. It applies a natural flow of speech rather than rhythmic structure.

Pronoun-antecedent agreement: Correspondence in gender and number between a pronoun and the word or word group to which a pronoun refers.

Purpose: Specific reason or reasons for writing. Purpose conveys what the readers have to gain by reading the selection; it is also the objective or the goal that the writer wishes to establish.

Rate: The speed at which a person reads.

Reason: The logical support behind an argument.

Relative adverbs: Adverbs that introduce relative clauses. The most common relative adverbs are where, when, and why.

Relative clause: A dependent clause that provides more information about a noun.

Relative pronouns: Pronouns that introduce relative clauses. The most common relative pronouns are who, whom, whose, which, and that.

Regular verb: A verb that forms its past tense and participle by the addition of –d or –ed to the present tense form.

Retelling: Recalling the content of what was read or heard.

Repetition: Deliberate use of any element of language more than once: sound, word, phrase, sentence, grammatical pattern, or rhythmical pattern.

Rhetoric: The art of using words to persuade in writing or speaking. Writers frequently use three modes of persuasion: **ethos** (persuasive appeal based on the character and credibility of the writer or speaker) **pathos** (persuasion by an appeal to emotion), and **logos** (persuasion by an appeal to logic).

Rhetorical devices and features: Techniques used by a writer to persuade an audience.

Rhyme: Repetition of sounds in two or more words or phrases that appear close to each other in a poem. *End rhyme* occurs at the end of lines; *internal rhyme* occurs within a line; *Slant rhyme* is approximate rhyme; a *rhyme scheme* is the pattern of end rhymes.

Rhyming words: Sharing identical or at least similar medial and final phonemes in the last syllable. Because English has a writing system with a deep orthography, words can rhyme without sharing similar orthography (e.g. *suite* and *meet*).

Rhythm: Regular recurrence and speed of sound and stresses in a poem or work of prose.

Root: A bound morpheme, usually of Latin origin, that cannot stand alone but is used to form a family of words with related meanings.

Register: A variety of language used in specified kinds of formal and informal situations.

Sarcasm: The use of verbal irony in which a person appears to be praising something but is actually insulting it.

Satire: Prose in which witty language is used to convey insults or scorn.

Scaffolding: Refers to the support that is given to students in order for them to arrive at the correct answer. Scaffolding may be embedded in the features of the instructional design such as starting with simpler skills and building progressively to more difficult skills. The ultimate goal of scaffolding is to lead students to greater independence.

Scene: In a drama, scenes represent actions happening in one place at one time. In narrative works, the term applies to a dramatic method of narration that presents events at roughly the same pace at which they are supposed to occur.

Secondhand account: An event or topic based on an author's research rather than on personal experience.

Segmentation: Breaking down a spoken word into word parts by inserting a pause between each part. Words can be segmented at the word level (in the case of compound words), at the syllable level, at the onset-rime level, and at the phoneme level.

Sensory details: Words or phrases that can be recognized or described through sight, sound, touch, smell, or taste.

Setting: The time and place in which events in a short story, novel, or narrative poem take place.

Sequence: Text structure in which ideas are grouped on the basis of order or time.

Shades of meaning: Small differences in meaning between words that are similar.

Simile: An explicit comparison between two different things, actions, or feelings using the words like or as. Ex: He was as quiet as a mouse.

Soliloquy: A dramatic speech uttered by one character speaking aloud while alone (or under the impression of being alone). The speaker reveals his or her inner thoughts to the audience through either direct address or self-communication.

Sonnet: Fourteen-line lyric poem, usually written in iambic pentameter.

Spatial words: Signal words that emphasize location.

Spelling patterns and generalizations: The generalizing principles and recognizable patterns that aid in learning to spell.

Stage directions: Words in a dramatic script that define an actor's actions, movements, and attitudes.

Standard English: The most widely accepted and understood form of expression in English in the United States.

Stanza: A division of a poem that is composed of two or more lines.

Style: A writer's characteristic manner of employing language.

Subordinating conjunction: A word or phrase used to introduce a subordinate clause.

Suffix: A derivational morpheme (added to a root or base word) that often changes the word's part of speech and modifies its meaning.

Summary: A condensed version of a larger reading in which a writer uses his or her own words to express the main idea and relevant details of the text.

Superlative adjectives or adverbs: Adjectives or adverbs used to compare one person, thing, or group with all others in its class.

Syllable: The unit of pronunciation that is organized around a vowel; it may or may not have consonants before or after the word.

Symbol: Object, person, place, or action that has both a meaning in itself and that stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value.

Syntax: Arrangement of words and order of grammatical elements in a sentence.

Technical meaning: Words or groups of words that relate to a specific process or activity.

Temporal words and phrases: Signal words or phrases used to refer to time or sequence of events.

Tension: The feeling or experience of the reader or audience as a story unfolds, especially the closer the reader or audience approaches the climax of a story. The feelings and experience can include increased involvement or interest, dread, anticipation, thrill, or uncertainty. An author may create tension through pacing, foreshadowing, actions, word choice, sentence or text structure, dramatic irony, and other techniques and devices.

Text complexity band: Readability levels assigned to determine text difficulty after using a formula to calculate factors such as sentence and word length and frequency of unfamiliar words.

Text features: Additional information about a text, including headings, captions, illustrations, boldface words, graphs, diagrams, and glossaries that help readers comprehend a text.

Textual evidence: Support lifted directly from a text to support inferences, claims, and assertions. Using textual evidence demands that readers engage with the text and share the specific aspects of the text that influence their thinking.

Theme: Central meaning of a literary work. A literary work can have more than one theme.

Third person narration: Narration in which the narrator stands outside the events in a story.

Tone: A writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the author's choice of words and detail. Tone can be serious, humorous, sarcastic, objective, etc.

Traditional literature: The songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a people handed down orally before they were written.

Transitional words and phrases: Words and phrases used to create logical links between ideas expressed in writing.

Trait: Distinguishing feature, as of a person's character.

Understatement: A kind of irony that deliberately represents something as being much less than it really is; the opposite of hyperbole or overstatement.

Verse: Any single, long line of a poetry composition. Verse can, however, also refer to a stanza or any other part of a poem.

Voice: Distinctive style or manner of expression of an author or of a character.