

Unit 1 Literary Terms

Word	Definition
Archetype	A character, symbol, story pattern, or other element that is common to human experience across cultures and that occurs frequently in literature, folklore, and myth
Imagery	Descriptive or figurative language used to create word pictures; imagery is created by details that appeal to one or more of the five senses
Details	In writing, evidence (facts, statistics, examples) that support the topic sentence
Setting	The time and place in which a narrative occurs
Point of View	The perspective from which a story is told. In <i>first person point of view</i> , the teller is a character in the story telling what he or she knows. In <i>third person point of view</i> , the narrator is someone outside the story
Conflict	A struggle between opposing forces. An <i>external conflict</i> occurs when a character struggles with an outside source, such as another character or something in nature. An <i>internal conflict</i> occurs when a character struggles with his or her own needs, desires, or emotions
Mood	The overall emotional quality of a work, which is created by the author's language and tone and the subject matter
Protagonist	The central character in a work of literature, the one who is involved in the main conflict of the plot
Plot	The sequence of related events that make up a story or novel
Pacing	The amount of time a writer gives to describing

	each event and developing each stage in the plot
Epic	A long narrative poem about the deeds of heroes or gods
Tone	A writer's or speaker's attitude towards a subject
Diction	A writer's or speaker's choice of words
Denotation	The exact, literal meaning of a word
Connotation	The suggested or implied meaning or emotion associated with a word, beyond its literal definition
Nuance	A subtle difference or distinction in meaning
Definition Essay	A type of expository writing that explains, or defines, what a topic means
Allegory	A story in which the characters, objects, or actions have a meaning beyond the surface of the story
Formal Style	Academic writing that shows care and appropriate language
Informal Style	Writing that is not necessarily meant to be academic
Coherence	The clear and orderly presentation of ideas in a paragraph or essay
Thesis	A sentence, in the introduction of essay, that states the writer's position or opinion on the topic of the essay