

## Glossary of Literary Terms

<b>Allegory</b>	A story in which people, things, or even events have another – often symbolic meaning
<b>Alliteration</b>	The repetition of the same consonant sound, especially at the beginning of words
<b>Allusion</b>	A reference to another event, person, place or work of literature. The allusion is usually implied rather than explicit and provides another layer of meaning to what is being said
<b>Assonance</b>	The repetition of similar vowel sounds
<b>Colloquial</b>	Ordinary, everyday speech and language
<b>Connotation</b>	An implication or association attached to a word or phrase. It is suggested or felt rather than being explicit
<b>Diction</b>	The choice of words a writer uses. Another word for “vocabulary”
<b>Denouement</b>	The final stage in the plot structure in which the problem is resolved
<b>Empathy</b>	A feeling on the part of the reader of sharing the particular experience being described by the character or writer
<b>Figurative language</b>	Language that is symbolic or metaphorical and not meant to be taken literally
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	Hints or clues that suggest events yet to occur
<b>Genre</b>	A particular type of writing – eg prose, poetry, drama
<b>Imagery</b>	The use of words to create a picture or “image” in the mind of the reader. Images can relate to any of the senses, not just sight
<b>Irony</b>	At its simplest level, it means saying one thing while meaning another. It occurs where a word or phrase has one surface meaning but another contradictory, possibly opposite meaning is implied. Irony is often confused with sarcasm. <b>Sarcasm</b> is spoken, relying on the tone of voice and is much more blunt than irony
<b>Metaphor</b>	A comparison of one thing to another to make the description more vivid. The metaphor actually states that one thing is another
<b>Narrative</b>	A piece of writing that tells a story
<b>Omniscient Point of View</b>	The vantage point of a story in which the narrator can know, see, and report whatever he or she chooses
<b>Parody</b>	A composition that imitates the style of another composition, often for comic effect
<b>Personification</b>	The attribution of human feelings, emotions, or sensations to an inanimate object.
<b>Plot</b>	The sequence of events in a poem, play, novel or short story that make up the main storyline
<b>Point of View</b>	A story can be told by one of the characters or from another point of view. The point of view can change from one part of the story to another when events are viewed through the minds of two or more characters.
<b>Protagonist</b>	The main character or speaker in a poem, monologue, play or story
<b>Pun</b>	A play on words that have similar sounds but quite different meanings
<b>Satire</b>	The highlighting or exposing of human failings or foolishness through ridiculing them. Satire can range from being gentle and light to extremely biting and bitter in tone
<b>Setting</b>	The background of a story – the physical location of a play, story, or novel – involves time and place

