**Literary Terms & Literary Devices**

**for**

**AP Literature and Composition**

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| **Term** | **Literary Definition** | **Classic Example** | **Modern Example** |
| ab-ovo |  |  |  |
| + in-media-res | literally meaning “in the middle of things” in Latin, this literary term describes a narrative that begins in the middle of a story,usually the turning point. The beginning of the story is revealed throughout the narrative.  (Joshi 3) | Inferno starts in media res as Dante is considering suicide. We then learn the events leading up to his “veering off the path” and the story continues from there. (Dante’s Inferno)  The Odyssey is another example. | The movie Forrest Gump starts when the main character Forrest is waiting at the bus stop for the love of his life named Jenny. He then recounts previous events from his childhood that lead up to this scene. Pulp Fiction and Inception are other examples. |
| additive monster | The term used to describe a creature, usually in mythology or legend, which has body parts that are either altered in size or quantity, as in a creature with extra eyes or with very long limbs (Martin 2). | There are many examples of additive monsters, especially in old Greek and Norse mythology. In the Odyssey, there is an additive monster named Scylla. She has six heads (Odyssey). | A more modern example would be from the well known movie "Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail". There is a three-headed giant who, after blocking the path of Sir Robin, ends up getting in an argument with himself, or namely his other two heads, providing a distraction enough that Sir Robin can bravely run away (Holy Grail). |
| + composite monster | The term is used to describe fantasy creatures in Greek, Babylonian, Assyrian and medieval europe legends in which the creature is made up of different body parts of different animals  (Suffolk 2) | There has been various composite monsters in greek myths and such. One that is known is the Chimera from the Greek Myth. It is the offspring Echinda and Typhon. The chimera has a body of a goat, head of a lion, and tail of a serpent. | In the Harry Potter series there are lot of creatures that are considered composite monsters. Such as the Hippogriff which is suppose to be the offspring of a griffin and a mare. |
| allegory | An allegory is an extended metaphor. An allegorical story will typically have two meanings, its symbolic half which showcases a moral, social, political, or religious significance, and its literal meaning. (Nguyen 5) | In Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*, Ahab’s struggle, the whale, and the sea all represent elements of human life and behavior. (Moby Dick) | In Isaac Asimov’s *the End of Eternity*, Eternity’s entire existence was the one force that was holding humanity back from progress. It represents a common fear that many have when dealing with change, especially in regards to their beliefs, knowledge, and foundation to life; some would rather sit in the comfort of the past than face the uncertainty of the future. (the End of Eternity) |
| + fable | A short fictional tale used to teach a moral lesson. Fables use prose or verse to tell their stories. A fable usually uses animals, mythical creatures, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature with human qualities to teach their moral lessons. (Klivans 5) | In Paradise Lost, when Satan and the Angels fell from heaven it taught us not to disobey god. It taught us that god is all powerful and if you disobey him he will punish you severely. (Milton, Paradise Lost) | In the Aesop’s Fable, The Tortoise and the Hare, the Hare was so confident that he would win the race that he took a nap during the race. When he woke, the Tortoise was crossing the finish line. The moral lesson is the slow and steady wins the race and don’t be overconfident in your abilities. (The Tortoise and the Hare) |
| +parable | A short allegorical story that is used to teach a moral lesson. Parables usually consist of only human characters (Wu 2) | In the Bible, there are many parables. One example is the parable of the Good Samaritan, which teaches us to show love and compassion for others. | From the short story “The Boy Who Cried Wolf," we learn not to ask for help when we don't need it. |
| allusion | (Toole 3) |  |  |
| ambiguity | When something is unclear to the audience, being intentionally vague in order to raise questions amongst the audience. (Anderson 3) | I kept quiet, with my ears cocked, about fifteen  minutes, I reckon. I was floating along, of course,  four or five miles an hour; but you don't ever think  of that. No, you FEEL like you are laying dead still on  the water; and if a little glimpse of a snag slips by  you don't think to yourself how fast YOU'RE going, but  you catch your breath and think, my! how that snag's  tearing along. If you think it ain't dismal and lone-  some out in a fog that way by yourself in the night,  you try it once -- you'll see.(Huckleberry Finn) | In Christopher Nolan's film "Inception" the protagonist uses a top to distinguish whether or not he is in a dream. If the top eventually falls over he is awake, while if he is dreaming the top will spin on indefinitely. At the end of the movie the protagonist returns home after years separated from his children and spins the top to confirm he is awake, but when he looks upon his children's faces he walks away from the top to embrace them. The movie ends with the viewers looking at the still spinning top, and cutting short without knowing whether or not the top falls over, leaving the viewer to wonder whether or not the protagonist is awake. |
| amplification | When a sentence is too simple and doesn't convey a certain message, amplification is used to enhance the information by giving the overall form of the sentence more meaning. (Farnell 2) | "Elizabeth listened in silence, but was not convinced; their behaviour at the assembly had not been calculated to please in general; and with more quickness of observation and less pliancy of temper than her sister, and with a judgement too unassailed by any attention to herself, she was very little disposed to approve them." (Pride and prejudice).The sentence could have ended with the statement that she was very little disposed by the behavior,but instead there are comparisons between Elizabeth's attitude to her sister and explanations for her thoughts. | In the movie Memento,the main character Leonard Shelby is an ex-insurance investigator you cannot create any new memories. The last thing he does remember is the murder of his wife. One story is told moving forward in time (in color) while the other story tells the story backwards (in black and white). Each time they switch there is more revealed about the plot. The story progresses in the fact that it amplifies the meaning of a simple idea and continues to implicate a desired understanding for the audience. Additional structure is added to give more meaning. |
| anastrophe | A reversal of the common order of words in a phrase, usually with minimal loss to literary meaning (Gevoian 2). | The structure and writing style of Dante's Alighieri's poem Inferno is largely built around the use of anastrophe. Examples include "A poet was I, and I sang that just", "And never moved she from before my face" as well as "Through every city shall I hunt her down" (Inferno 2). | Both Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey employ the use of anastrophe, as evident in this quote. '"Still I am willing to give her back, if such is the best way.  I myself desire that my people be safe, not perish.  Find me then some prize that shall be my own, lest I only  among the Argives go without, since that were unfitting."(Iliad 2). |
| anthropomorphism | the attribution of human like qualities to a being or object that is non-human (Karathanas 2) | In the Bible and also in Milton's Paradise Lost, a serpent is given the ability to speak with Eve and convince her to eat the forbidden fruit. Serpents do not have these abilities in real life. (Bible OR Paradise Lost) | Mrs. Potts from Beauty and the Beast is anthropomorphized. She is given the ability to talk, think and sing like a human would, but she is a tea pot. |
| + personification | The act of giving animals or objects the ability to perform humanlike actions.(Davila 3) | In John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, the cotton in the fields are said to have robbed the land and sucked all the blood out if it. Its given the human traits of robbing since a cotton plant can't naturally do that. (Grapes Wrath) | In the movie Doctor Dolittle, animals are able to talk to him to explain their health problems. These animals are given the ability to talk, therefore they have been personified. |
| analogy | A comparison is made between the subject and something else totally different that is usually familiar to most people in order to prove the author's point.  (Gulino 5) | In John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, Joad’s journey resembles Moses’s journey when he leads the Israelites out of Egypt into the Promised Land. (Grapes of Wrath) | In The Chronicles of Narnia, Aslan the Lion resembles Jesus as he sacrifices himself and is shaved and taunted just as Jesus was on his cross and then comes back to life to save the people of Narnia just as Jesus came back to save his people as well. |
| antihero | The main protagonist or a the person whom the text is centered around, that lacks heroic characters. This person is more "human" than the typical hero as he/she has the darker qualities that most heroes lack (Phan 5). | Mr.Gatsby is an example of an anti-hero. He is in pursuit of the noble goal of love. However in the fact that Gatsby pursued his goal through illegal means and had an affair to accomplish his goals make him the anti-hero (Gatsby). | one of the most famous modern day anti-hero is the dark knight of Gotham, Batman. Though Batman is a hero a, he is breaking the law by doing so. The origin of Batman is also an example of the darker nature that makes him an anti-hero as the Batman is born out of a desire to avenge a murder. |
| anachronism | The presence of a person, event, item, or expression that is used or placed in the wrong time period, either as a mistake or used as a creative preference to add to the story.(Boudreaux 5) | In Shakespeare's *Hamlet,* the swords which are used are rapiers, swords that had not been invented until the 16th century. (Hamlet) | In the film *Titanic* there are many examples of anachronism. Such as the Statue of liberty would still be a brownish copper color in the early 1900’s, The lake that Jack says he goes ice fishing on was actually a man made reservoir created five years after the ship sank. |
| anecdote | An interesting short story that recounts a specific incident that provides an example for a point made. (Lai 5) | The nurse in Romeo and Juliet has a silly anecdote where she recounts the story of when Juliet becomes an innocent accomplice in a joke( Act 1, Scene 3) | In modern day television there are plenty of anecdotes within each episode. For example, in the tv series Good Luck Charlie the mom always recounts different stories that teach her children the lesson of not lying to your parents by “fading back” into the past. |
| archetype | An idea, theme, character, or plot that is easily identifiable in all cultures and is used as a base in literary works. (Tran 3) | A common theme in literary works is eternal love. In Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, eternal love is expressed by the deaths of the two lovers in their search for each other. | An archetypal character in literature is the gentle giant. In the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, Rubeus Hagrid is literally a half giant that may look menacing but instead has maternal instincts for his pets and aids the protagonist in his quest. |
| atmosphere/mood | (Saleem 5) |  |  |
| + tone | The overall mood of a story depicted through literary elements such as diction and dialogue. (Littler 2) | In the classic novel Pride and Prejudice, acclaimed author Jane Austen conveys a romantic and humorous tone through her depiction of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy’s journey to love and the ludicrous behavior of the young Bennett sisters and Mr. Collins. | Throughout Suzanne Collins’ successful series The Hunger Games, there is a tone of struggle and oppression as the characters brutally fight for survival within a tyrannical and unjust society. |
| bathos | A descent in literature from elevated diction to trivial imagery, phrasing, or ideas, or an unsuccessful attempt at pathos. Alexander Pope originated the term to mock writers who tried to hard to be elevated and passionate. Now comedians deliberately use bathos for a comedic effect. (Micon2) | Bathos is commonly used for mockery such as in Jonathon Swift's, A Modest Proposal. "I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassie, or a ragout. (Swift) | Science fiction author Douglas Adams uses bathos in his novel The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy "The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that bricks don't" (Adams) |
| canto | One of the main or larger divisions in a long poem, usually denotes a singing or chanting portion of the poem or a subdivision of the work similar to a chapter in a novel. (Powell 5) | Found in epic poems such as The Inferno, an example found in the same text is presented here, "to run over better waters the little vessel of my genius now hosts its sails, and leaves behind itself a sea so cruel; and I will sing of that second realm where the human spirit is purified and becomes worthy to ascend to heaven." | Although used almost completely in older literature, think during the high times of the Catholic church, cantos can sometimes be seen in more modern works, such as The Cantos by [Ezra Pound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezra_Pound) which is a long poem considered to be in its entirety a canto. |
| catharsis | An outburst of emotion leading to emotional or spiritual renewal, often the climax of a drama or tragedy. (Miller 5) | In Goethe’s *Faust*, *Part II,* the main character utters the phrase “Stay, thou art so beautiful” when he reaches a moment in his life so beautiful and worthwhile that he never wants it to leave him. The moment when he finally says this represents both the climax of the tragedy, and an spiritual renewal for the fallen Faust | In the film *Flight*, when Denzel Washington’s character is given the opportunity to lie about his drinking and escape prison, but instead finally stops lying to himself and the world and admits he’s an alcoholic. After this he goes to prison and goes through an emotional and spiritual renewal. |
| character | A term used to describe a person, animal, or force that has a prominent voice in literature or other bodies of work and its collective traits, thoughts, and features. Used to form plot, create a mood, and voice the author’s opinions. They can represent an idea, ethical principle, social standard, and moral belief. (November 3) | In Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, the first few chapters are dedicated to a prologue that introduces the characters that hold some significance and will appear later on. Each person mentioned not only acts as a driving force to push the plot along, in this case recount stories in order to win a bet, but also hold some importance as embodiments of stereotypes of the time. (The Canterbury Tales) | In Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*, the characters displayed are important to the plot and help to further advance their journey in their own individual ways. Each one offers a new set of thoughts and motives to add to the story. (The Lord of the Rings series) |
| + foil | This term is used for a character that contrasts another in order to highlight particular qualities in that character. Foils are usually completely different or very similar to the character in order to point out their differences. (Mauricio 3) | In William Shakespeare's, "Hamlet", a good example of a foil is Fortinbras to Hamlet. Both Fortinbras and Hamlet have lost their fathers, however, Fortinbras will go to any length to avenge the death of his father. This characteristic of strength and passion contrasts Hamlet who can not even distinguish his emotions much less act to avenge his father's death, exemplifying Hamlet's weakness and indecision. | In the Disney movie, The Lion King, Scar and Mufasa, although brothers, are worlds apart as leaders atop Pride Rock. Mufasa was the righteous king that protected his people and understood the circle of life. However, when Scar took over the pride lands through deceit and killing his own brother for power, he showed himself to be more concerned with the title and power while disregarding the responsibilities of being the king. These negative traits that Scar portrays strongly juxtaposes Mufasa's right to be a king to the people, not to scavenging hyenas. |
| chiasmus | a figure of speech where the order of words at the beginning of each of two clauses are switched and repeated in order to parallel or contrast a pair of corresponding ideas. In a sense, it is a "criss-cross" arrangement of two ideas or words. (Vasquez 2) | In William Shakespeare's "Macbeth", the three witches say "Fair is foul, and foul is fair." this is a chiasmus in which the order of fair and foul are reversed in order to illustrate an idea. As agents of evil, the witches are ultimately saying that what seems to be commonly good or "fair" to others, is bad in their eyes, and what they find to be good, is evil to common man. | In a speech, President Barack Obama said "My job is not to represent Washington to you, but to represent you to Washington."  This is a chiasmus in which he reverses the orders of "you" and "Washington", trying to make the point that he is working for the best interest of the people and not just the government. |
| convention | A convention is a typical asset of a story or genre. This includes things like predictable plot points and character behaviors that are associated with the type of story being told (Alvarado 2). | Romeo and Juliet is an example of a story that breaks romance conventions. Beginning as a love story of two lovers who can't be together because of family rivalry, conventions suggest that they will end up together at the end. However, when they both tragically kill themselves, it breaks the happy ending convention of the genre (Romeo and Juliet). | The 2012 film Cabin in the Woods breaks horror film conventions. It starts off as a typical horror movie with a set of teenagers who want to go away for a "break" from the real world to some remote location that obviously is full of danger but they are too ignorant to listen to the warnings. When the audience is convince it's just another lame horror movie, the story completely shifts to a sci-fi when they find out they are being toyed with by a group of technicians in a control room that operates this "cabin in the woods." |
| Deus Ex Machina | Literally meaning "god in the machine", it refers to a situation of seemingly no escape that is suddenly intervened by a divine force or a previously unmentioned factor.(Loew 3) | In Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum", the story concludes with the hero being suddenly rescued from certain death by arriving forces. | In Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings", Sam and Frodo are suddenly rescued from Sauron's army atop Mt. Doom by huge eagles. |
| dialect | The language (including grammar and diction) or accent distinct to people of certain social classes or geographic locations, which is used to provide more information about a character's background and possibly give insight into the character's status in society (Oueini 5) | In Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, Twain utilizes an exaggerated dialect to show the differences between the two main characters: Jim, a slave (uses improper grammar and mispronounces words, shows that he is uneducated), and Huck, a white young boy who was raised on a higher socioeconomic standard than Jim; more educated  Example-  Jim: "We's safe, Huck, we's safe! Jump up and crack yo' heels. Dat's de good ole Cairo at las', I jis knows it."  vs.  Huck: "I'll take the canoe and go see, Jim. It mightn't be, you know." | In the movie, The Help, various characters have a wide range of Southern accents as the movie takes place in Jackson, Mississippi. “The help”, including main characters Minnie and Aibileen, have very poor grammar, which shows their lack of education, due to their low status in society. |
| didactic | A reference to literature or writing that is instructional or informative and seeks to convince a reader of a point; a work that is "preachy" is an example of didactic literature. (Trask 3) | Nathaniel Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter would be an example of didactic literature as Hawthorne portrays his views of the Puritan society throughout the work. Throughout the work, he attempts to "inform" the reader of the ways of Puritanistic society and includes his opinions on the religion in a way as to get the reader to see the religion as he views it. (The Scarlet Letter) | An example of didactic literature would be our school textbooks for example, since they aim to teach and inform. |
| elevated language | Elevated diction is a form in which instead of using simple, easy, understandable words, higher advanced vocabulary used. ( Ineyra,5) | In "Paradise Lost", Milton uses a lot of elevated diction such as "So spake th' Apostate Angel, though in pain,  Vaunting aloud, but rackt with deep despare:  And him thus answer'd soon his bold Compeer." (Paradise Lost). | An example of elevated diction in today's society is in President Obama's inauguration speech that he said this year, 2013, in the speech he says "This generation of Americans has been tested by crises that steeled our resolve and proved our resilience" ( Obama's second inauguration speech). |
| Epic/Saga | A long, narrative form of poetry that typically focuses on the struggle and journey of a hero who often reflects a specific culture or people and whose actions affect a nation. Starting with an invocation to the muse to inspire the poet and often in mideas res, most epics use an elevated style of language. (Graham 5) | In the epic, The Iliad, the poem starts off typically with this invocation to the muse: "Sing, Goddess, sing of the rage of Achilles, son of Peleus—  that murderous anger which condemned Achaeans  to countless agonies and threw many warrior souls  deep into Hades, leaving their dead bodies  carrion food for dogs and birds—  all in fulfilment of the will of Zeus" (Iliad). | The Lord of the Rings saga qualifies as an epic as it followsa hero on his journey whose actions affect a grand mass of nations. It also begins with something very similar to an invocation: "Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky, Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,  Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,  One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne  In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.  One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,  One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them  In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie" (Lord of the Rings). |
| +tragedy | A serious play in which the main character, usually a hero who has a tragic flaw, goes through a series of events culminating in a final tragic event that brings the main character's downfall. Traditionally, a tragedy is composed of five acts with act 1 being the exposition, 2 being introduction to dilemma, 3 being crisis which can be averted, 4 being failure to avert crisis, and 5 being dire consequences and falling action (Saleem 5) | Shakespeare’s Hamlet possesses vital elements of a tragedy as Hamlet’s cautious nature and inability to act is his tragic flaw and Hamlet’s tragic error is when Hamlet "accidentally" stabs Polonius and this ultimately causes his downfall. The audience pities the main character and the catharsis, a vital element in a tragedy, is gained when the prince of Norway decides to keep Hamlet’s story going as a hero. (Hamlet) | The story of the Titanic is a modern- day example of a tragedy in that the tragic flaw was every passenger’s overconfidence that the ship was unsinkable and due to this, less precautionary measures were taken which ultimately led the ship to sink and to the deaths of many people which could have been prevented. The story is one of the most memorable modern-day tragedies as it really captures human error and brings about emotion in the audience, just like a tragedy would. |
| +comedy | A genre of literature that is generally light in tone, is humorous/satirical, and has a happy ending (such as a wedding) (Gibson 2) | Jane Austen satirizes the English society of the 18th century in her novel Pride and Prejudice. This novel ends with a double wedding and opens with the light, humorous sentence "It is a truth universally acknowldged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." (Pride and Prejudice 3) | modern comedies can take different shapes |
| +drama | A composition in verse or prose intended to portray life or to tell a story. Dramas usually involve conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue and are typically designed for theatrical performance.(Nakkashian 5) | "From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  Do with their death bury their parents' strife." (Romeo and Juliet) | “Everyone makes mistakes. Are you that perfect that you can’t accept it?”  -Khloe Kardashian  “I’m not the one popping pills, babe. I’m not the one popping pills, getting drunk.”  -Asa, Shahs of Sunset |
| epithet | A short, descriptive phrase that is coupled with a character's real name in order to identify the character in a specific way. Often a descriptive nickname that can be either positive or harsh. (Graham 5) | In this quote from the Iliad, Neptune is surrounded by descriptive epithets. "Meanwhile *earth-encircling Neptune lord of the earthquake* cheered on the Argives, for he had come up out of the sea and had assumed the form and voice of Calchas" (Iliad). | Today, many people refer to WWE star and actor Dwayne Johnson and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, due to his massive size and rock hard muscles. This is a modern epithet. |
| erotesis | (Lowe-Sadler 2)  aka erotima; Similar to a rhetoric question where a question is asked to the reader. Through this device, an answer is implied through the question but is not specified. | A classic example of this is seen throughout Dante’s Inferno where Dante is questioning the reader in order for them to think deeply over the questions. For example, Canto XXVIII begins with an erotima asking “Who, e’en in words unfetter’d, might at full tell of the wounds and blood that now I saw, through he repeated of the tale?” | A modern example of this is seen in this video compilaion of popular Geico commercials where the narrator consistently asks the audience obvious questions: <http://youtu.be/Dtp_mq2fO24> |
| euphemism | (Ebert 3) |  |  |
| flashback | An interruption of the forward moving plot to go back to a previous scene or event in the storyline. (Hoff 5) | An example from classic literature is Poe’s The Cask Of Amontillado. The entire story is itself a flashback because at the end the speaker returns to the present tense and reveals that 50 years have passed. “For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!” (Poe) | Flashbacks are commonly used in modern movies and TV. One example is most crime drama shows where a crime is shown happening to open the episode and the rest of the episode takes place after the crime as the investigators try to solve it. |
| frame | A frame device is, more or less, a story within a story. The author creates a larger story to combine a series of shorter stories. (McGinley 2) | In the story *Canterbury Tales* all of the primary tales are told within the frame story of the pilgrimage to Canterbury. | In the movie *Inception*, there are many short stories created within the larger story. As Dom Cobb and his team go deeper into different dreams, they are filling the frame story with smaller stories. |
| gothic | A style of writing that was most popular during the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century which portrayed tales that dealt with despair, horror, grotesque, and other “dark” or supernatural aspects of life.  (Ordonez 3) | The Shakespearean play of *Macbeth* portrays a gothic style of writing as it shows Macbeth’s path of corruption as he interacts with the three witches and kills King Duncan. Shakespeare portrays these parts of the play in a very supernatural and grotesque manner as he uses imagery of Macbeth’s hallucinations, the three witches conversations, and Lady Macbeth’s slow descent into madness. (*Macbeth*, Shakespeare) | Tim Burton is most commonly known to portray this gothic, “dark” style to his own works. Movies such as *The Nightmare Before Christmas, Corpse Bride, Frankenweenie*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* show different supernatural views to life and actions of people. Especially within *Sweeney Todd* where the characters Benjamin Barker (Sweeney Todd) and Mrs. Lovette give into their darker desires of revenge and begin to grotesquely avenge people who have been mistreated through the murders of aristocrats. (Tim Burton) |
| hamartia | the hamartia is seen as the flaw or fault that leads to a tragic hero's downfall  (Clark 3) | In Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King,* Oedipus’ hamartia is his inability to attain the knowledge of his family roots. He leaves his “parents” because he wants to avoid the prophecy of killing his father and sleeping with his mother. In the process of trying to avoid contact with those situations, he ends up confronting them unknowingly. His lack of knowledge about his origins causes him to flee and kill his father on the way to a town where he ends up in a relationship with his biological mother. | The Bachelor’s Sean Lowe seems to be the perfect man; he is an all american Texan who is tall, handsome, kind, and he is a virgin waiting for the right woman....but his hamartia is that even though he seems to be the perfect husband he has probably told multiple girls on the show that he loves them and he has no problem kissing every girl there. So even though he looks and seems to be perfect, his hamartia is that he has multiple relationships on the show; tarnishing his perfect and wholesome reputation. |
| heroic code(s) | a system of beliefs that is based on several basic concepts: bravery in the face of danger, the performance of a challenging and life threatening quest, the honoring of friends and family, and allegiance to one's leader.  (Casey 5) | "My friends, play the man, and take in your hearts shame of other men, and be ye mindful, each man of you, of children and wife, of possessions and of his parents, whether in the case of any they be living or be dead. For the sake of them that are not here with us do I now beseech you to stand firm, and turn not back in flight."  (The Iliad) | The best examples of the heroic code in moderns literature is the Harry Potter series. Harry is sent on one quest that others view as impossible: to kill Lord Voldemort. In each book, he faces many challenges, all of which he completes with great courage. His loyalty to his friends is one of his greatest traits as well as his devotion to his mentor, Professor Dumbledore. |
| hubris | Overconfident pride or arrogance found within a character, which usually leads to his/her demise or fall.  (Sarkisian 5) | In The Odyssey, after Odysseus and his remaining men escape from the cave of the cyclops Polyphemus and return safely to their ship at sea, Odysseus turns to the shore and shouts insults and taunts at the blinded and defeated cyclops, which leads to Polyphemus cursing Odysseus and his men to ruin and misfortune. The entire crew ends up dying and Odysseus finds himself unable to return home for years. |  |
| humors | (Christopher 5) |  |  |
| imagery | Visually descriptive language in literature that appeals to one or more of the senses, creating vivid mental images through detailed text (Newton 3) | "The door of the jail being flung open from within, there appeared, in the first place, like a black shadow emerging in sunshine, the grim and gristly presence of the town-beadle, with a sword by his side, and his staff of office in his hand." (The Scarlet Letter) | "Her face was the color of a dirty pillowcase, and the corners of her mouth glistened with wet, which inched like a glacier down the deep grooves enclosing her chin." (To Kill A Mockingbird) |
| intra-textual meaning | A meaning that is composed based on the information provided by more than one source.  (maresca 5) | In understanding ancient Greek mythology reading both the Iliad and the Odyssey will make understanding each of them easier. Things that are learned in one work will carryover and complement the details learned in the other. | The recently award winning movie Life of Pi is based off of a book. Bringing both experiences together gives the story more depth and provides additional details which can be used to interpret and understand both accounts better. |
| irony | the term that refers to the differences in what a characher says and what they really mean/do/ or lead the audience or other characters to believe. There are three types: verbal irony- a character says something and means another. Dramatic irony- when something is happening and it is understood by the audience but not by the other charachters. Situational irony- whrn the outcome of an action comes out different than expected. (Frantzides 3) |  |  |
| kenning | A metaphoric phrase, usually made up of two words, that is used to describe an object. They are often found in Old Norse and Old English poetry. (Arellano 5) | sky-candle = the sun  giver of gold = the king  dwelling place = home  battle sweat = blood  stout-hearted = brave  whale road = the sea  (Beowulf) | bible thumper = aggressively religious people  eye candy = attractive people, pleasing to the eye  couch potato = someone who spends a lot of time on the couch usually watching tv  cancer stick = cigarette |
| kleos | Fame, glory, and renown; undying, it is the epic hero's ultimate legacy. After a hero has long been dead, their kleos remains for future generations to know. (Chorazewicz 2) | In the Iliad, Achilles |  |
| xenia | Xenia is an Ancient Greek term meaning hospitality. This term is mostly used to describe customs relating to hospitality, As well as the giving of gifts to strangers or foreign ambassadors. (Titcomb 2) | Many classical examples of Xenia are represented in Edith Hamilton's Mythology through the stories of Ancient Greek heroes. When Odysseus returns home after his long journey, a meager-living pig farmer invites him into his home and gies him gifts of food and shelter. He shows Odysseus great hospitality and exemplifies Xenia in his knowledge that Odysseus is no normal traveler; he is of noble status. | A modern example of Xenia is prevelant in the home and values of the Weasley family in Harry Potter. The Weasleys take Harry in and treat him like family, caring for him, protecting him from danger, and pouring love and humility onto him. They also are a good example of Xenia because, although they are truly good people and are hospitable to him because they care, they are also serving someone with nobility. The Greek use of the word was to be hospitable, specifically to those with high honor ability. |
| legend | Legend is a story or a collection of stories put together to tell the story of a person or place. These stories are often passed on from generation to generation and altered throughout the years.All related to a person or place in history. (Aguilar 3) | A Classical example of a legend is Beowulf,’’ far flew the boast of him, son of Scyld, in the Scandian lands.  So becomes it a youth to quit him well  with his father's friends, by fee and gift, that to aid him, aged, in after days,  come warriors willing, should war draw nigh,  liegemen loyal: by lauded deeds  shall an earl have honor in every clan.’’ (Beowulf) | A modern example of a legend is the cursed video tape. Which was turned into a movie in which a few girls were having a sleepover and went to a video store to rent a movie. When they got back to the house, they played the tape and were horrified to find that it was not the movie they thought they rented, but a video of a woman being burned for practicing voodoo. She cursed all who witness her death, saying that they will die in three days. Three days later, all of the girls had died in the most tragic and unlikely ways.(The Ring) |
| Luddite |  |  |  |
| macrocosm | (Bocchicchio 5) |  |  |
| +microcosm | A small world that illustrates the nature of the larger world or universe.(Knepley 5) | William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" is set on a small island inhabited by stranded choir boys. The boys become savage and constantly quarrel. "which is better, to have laws and agree or to hunt and kill?" (chapter 11). The conflicts the boys have on the island reflect the larger issues in the world, making the setting of the book a microcosm. | In the film "The Truman Show" (1998) the main character Truman lives in a fake tv show mini world suburbia. He doesn't know it's a fake world and the TV set has every commodity the real world does, making it a microcosm. |
| malapropism | A ridiculous misuse of a word, especially when the misused word sounds similar to the word the speaker intended to say.  Sandfrey (3) | In Sheridan's play "The Rivals", Mrs. Malaprop often misuses words. “He is the very pineapple of politeness." Mrs. Malaprop said this when she meant to say "He is the very pinnacle of politeness." |  |
| metonymy | A figure of speech in which a word, phrase or concept is used to replace another; the word, phrase or concept replaced is directly related to the word or concept it is replacing having the same meaning. (Quezadas 2) | “Her voice is full of money” (F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby) | In the song “Single Ladies” by Beyonce the lyrics “if you like it then you should have put a ring on it” the ring stands for commitment or marriage not just jewelry. |
| miasma |  |  |  |
| mimesis | Mimesis: An exact imitation and reproduction of a speaker's words, gestures, and actions spoken in a way that accurately represents the original statement. (Smrz 2). | From John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath": "Goin' to California? Here's jus' what you need. Looks shot, but they's thousan's of miles in her." | In the film "The Mechanic", Christian Bale lost 63 pounds in order to accurately represent, in gesture, voice, and visage, the person that the story was based on. |
| motif/conceit | A subject or an idea that is present throughout a text/ an elaborate metaphor (Suffolk 5) | The lover versus the warrior (Romeo and Juliet) | The color red (The Sixth Sense) |
| mythos | The telling of a story through poetic verse rather than traditional text (such as the textual structure found in modern pieces of literature).Mythos can oftentimes be found in mythological tales and conveys themes and important lessons through the use of poetic narrative which gives the piece a very vivid and fluid text. (Kunzelmann 2) | “Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles son of Peleus, that brought countless ills upon the Achaeans. Many a brave soul did it send hurrying down to Hades, and many a hero did it yield to prey to dogs and vultures, for so were the counsels of Jove fulfilled from the day on which the son of Atreus, king of men, and great Achilles, first fell out with one another.” (Book I, *Iliad*) This quote shows the traditional Greek/Roman style of mythology in which the verses are written in a poetic style rather than going straight into explaining the plot. Mythos adds a romantic view to the text without being too overbearing. | “Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste Brought Death into the World, and all our woe, With loss of *Eden*, till one greater Man Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat.”  (John Milton, *Paradise Lost*) |
| Noble Savage | the concept that an uncivilized man possesses a sense of goodness, which one corrupted by society would not be able to maintain (Delgado 5) | The uncivilised daughter of Hester Prynne, in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, could be seen as a noble savage (The Scarlet Letter). Her wise and precocious ways helped her to understand both her mother’s relationship with Dimmesdale and the letter she wore. |  |
| nostos | Nostos, in literary terms, refers to a longing for home or the past, or a journey back to home. This is also the term from which the word “nostalgia” comes (Martin 2). | The feeling described by this term is very present in Homer’s “Odyssey”, as throughout the whole epic, Odysseus is taking this long adventure so he can get back home to his wife and people (Odyssey). | Nostos, or nostalgia, is a very common feeling in modern times both in and out of books. This occurs in pop culture, especially, where old treasures, movies, books and videogames are looked on fondly by many people. |
| Oedipal Complex | The Oedipal complex refers to a man's innate (and often subconscious) sexual attraction to his mother. This often implies a hatred to their father as well. (McLeod 2) | "So excellent a king that was to this Hyperion to a satyr, so loving to my mother that he might not beteem the winds of heaven visit her face too roughly." (Hamlet) This quote shows Hamlet's attraction to his mom that leads to be threatened later on when his uncle pursues her. | In Pippin, Pippin's brother Lois has an implied sexual love for his mother as well a clear attempt to want to be the favorite and gain his mother's attention. |
| Omen | A sign/indication the predicts a future event or circumstance whether good or evil. Sometimes believed to be a sign from God/the gods or another “higher being”.(Goulding 3) | When Odysseus’s starving sailors slaughter and eat the holy cattle on the Isle of Helios, they recieve an omen as the cattle is cooking. “And soon the gods sent portents:  The flayed hides crawled along the ground; the flesh Upon the spits, both roast and raw, began To bellow; we heard the sounds of lowing cows” (Odyssey) | In A Christmas Carol, the ghost of Christmas future shows Scrooge what will become of him in the future; the ghost gives Scrooge an omen. |
| pedantic | An adjective that is overly scholarly, academic, or bookish to describe words, phrases, or the tone. This type of language is considered to be "show-offy". (Mohan 2) | In Jane Asuten’s Pride and Prejudice, Mary Bennet is described to be pedantic by her bookish behavior throughout the novel. (Pride and Prejudice) | In J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, Hermione Granger is described as a very scholarly wizard who knows more about wizardry than her peers attending school with her. |
| parallelism | Series of words and clauses that are similar in structure and follow one another. (Gandhi 2) | “The Loss we felt was not the loss of ham but the loss of pig” (Death of a Pig) | “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” |
| +anaphora | The usage of a certain word of set of words at the beginning of at least two consecutive clauses as a way to build a sense of rhythm, create a powerful emphasis, and/or to reinforce a key idea in the mind of the reader.  (Pealer 5) | "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity..."  (A Tale of Two Cities) | "I do not like them in a box. I do not like them with a fox. I do not like them in a house. I do not like them with a mouse. I do not like them here or there. I do not like them anywhere. I do not like green eggs and ham. I do not like them, Sam-I-Am."  (Green Eggs and Ham) |
| +anastrophe |  |  |  |
| +epistrophe |  |  |  |
| parody | A humorous or sarcastic remake of a serious piece of literature (Kohn 5) | *Pride and Prejudice* contained parodies against society rather than another piece of literature. Including Satire in the novel to show Austen’s displeasure with society, class, and the marriage market(Austen). | *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Seth Smith is a Parody of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice.* A novel which includes elements from the classic novel as well as a elements from modern zombie films. |
| +satire | Satire is used in literature often to make fun of society and people and the weaknesses of them. Often writers use it as a statement in an attempt to correct the subject or at least point out how silly it is to the masses. (Harrelson 5) | “It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” (Pride and Prejudice) Here, Jane Austen comments on how women in her time would always try to marry rich and would assume, that if they met a single man, he’d want to marry. She states it humorously to point out how silly it really is. | A modern example of satire can be found on the television show, Saturday Night Live (SNL). Actors like Tina Fey poke fun at politics/politicians through witty comedy sketches. For example, Tina Fey once pretended to be Sarah Palin to point out something she didn’t like about it |
| +farce | A farce is a piece of literature with highly exaggerated plots and characters. Most of these elements are meant for comedic purposes. A farce also refers to an entire branch of works as well as the characteristic involved in such literature. (Cole 2) | "I can call spirits from vastly deep...why, so can I, or so can any man; But will they come when you do call for them?...Why, I can teach you, cousin, to command the devil...And I can teach thee, coz, to shame the devil--by telling the truth. Tell truth and shame the devil." (Henry IV) In this short comedic moment of Shakespeare's creation, two men quarrel over spirits and the devil, but they are depicted as fools, stumbling over their thoughts and reaching a parodic conclusion to tell the truth and shame the devil. | A modern age farce is "The Hangover." The director of this movie created an extremely unlikely plot with a man getting lost in Las Vegas during his bachelor party. as the movie progresses the lead characters find a baby, Mike Tyson's tiger, and a nude Asian man with fighting skills in the back of their car. All of these is highly exaggerated for comedic purposes and to entertain the audience. |
| pathetic fallacy | Giving human emotions and feelings to an inanimate or inhuman object [much like personification]. It should be noted that the term pathetic, here, alludes to pathos rather than the pejorative pathetic. (Nestor 5) | “The apothecary came, and having examined his patient, said, as might he supposed, that she had caught a *violent cold*...” (Pride & Prejudice) Violence is an emotion felt by humans. This emotion is given to an inanimate object (the cold) to describe its ferocity. | The popular brand “Glad Bags” is a pathetic fallacy. Obviously trash bags cannot be glad, but because they are easy to use and endure a lot of weight, they leave the customer feeling glad. |
| pathos | Usually used in literature to evoke the audience to have a feeling of sympathy, pity, or compassion towards the main characters in novels or main characters in films or TV shows. (Odar 5) | In Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” pathos is used when Romeo makes his last soliloquy about his love for Juliet when he sees and believes that she is dead and thinks that he must die also. “And never from this palace of dim night depart again. Here, here will I remain with worms that are thy chamber maids.” (Romeo and Juliet) | In the movie “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” the main character is starting his first year of high school and he doesn’t make any friends the first day of his freshman year except his english teacher. During lunch he sits by himself because his own sister won’t sit with him either. This evokes the audience to have sympathy and pity towards the main character. |
| \* In Julius Caesar, when Mark Antony, after the death of Caesar, addresses the people "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears", he means that he wants the people to listen to what he has to say.  peripeteia | An often unexpected change or reversal of events that leads into the end of a story, similarly to a climax; often when a tragic hero goes from being good to being bad. (Dunniway 5) | "'Laius,' she cried,and called her husband dead/Long, long ago; her thought was of that child/By him begot, the son by whom the sire/Was murdered and the mother left to breed/With her own seed, a monstrous progeny." (Oedipus the King) The reveal of the truth in Oedipus represents the beginning of a series of events that eventually leads to the end of the story. | Peripeteia is commonly used in the Twilight Zone series, where the protagonist’s fortune is turned into misfortune. One particular example is in the episode “Time Enough at Last” where, right at the end of the episode, the protagonist breaks the reading glasses that he needs in order to read all of the books that he’s wanted to read his entire life. |
| point of view | Perspective from which the story is told. A person who tells the story and can add their own commentary to the text. They have their own voice and often address the audience out right.  (Johnston 3) | In "The Great Gatsby", Nick is one of the main characters and through him the story is told. He uses point of view in showing the audience how the story goes, how he feels about certain things and it kind of puts you in his shoes. | The "House of Night" series has an interesting style showcasing point of view. In the series, you have the main character, Zoey Redbird, narrate her point of view, but in other chapters, it switches off between Zoeys friends and enemies stating their opinions, what they are doing, and their emotions along with other aspects. |
| plot (parts of) |  |  |  |
| primogeniture | (Oueini 5) |  |  |
| symbolism | Symbolism is when a word or object is used to represent some other abstract idea or concept to add deeper meaning to the story or to portray the overarching feeling/mood. (Albert 3) | Found in many/ most literary works. One example would be the “A” Hester is forced to wear. It symbolizes Adultery, then later Able/ Angel. (The Scarlet Letter) | In the movie Castaway, the volleyball (later named Wilson) is symbolic of man’s need for companionship and social interaction. Tom Hank’s character interacts with Wilson for the time he is stranded on the island. |
| syntax | Syntax is the structure a writer uses for his/her writing style (shoaib 2) | In Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen, the author uses syntax to convey a message more effectively to a reader. "You are mistaken, Mr. Darcy, if you suppose that the mode of your declaration affected me in any other way, than as it spared me the concern which I might have felt in refusing you, had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner" (Austen) | In The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Charlie's character writes in journal form because his character is writing a diary of his high school years and the author tries to convey that in journal syntax. |
| +diction | Diction is the words an author uses in order to establish meaning, style, and tone. For example, if an author is talking about a pretty dress, there are many different words and phrases the author can use to talk about that dress, such as the "elegantly embroidered gown," depending on the image or emotion the author wants the reader to take. Also, if an author is writing about a poorly educated person, the author might use slang and improper language to properly portray the person. Overall, diction is an author's purpose for choosing the words he or she chooses. (Moore 2) | "We catched fish and talked, and we took a swim now and then to keep off sleepiness. It was kind of solemn, drifting down the big, still river, laying on our backs looking up at the stars, and we didn't ever feel like talking loud, and it warn't often that we laughed — only a little kind of a low chuckle." - Mark Twain "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"  "Yes-en I's rich now, come to look at it. I owns mysef, en I's wuth eight hund'd dollars. I wisht I had de money, I wouldn' want no."- Mark Twain "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.  Both examples show how Twain's diction illustrated Huck's lack of education and the slave, Jim's, lack of education and stereotype accent. Twain's choice of words helps the reader understand what kind of characters he is trying to create and who they are. | The movie "The Help," is a good example a film that uses diction as a way to make a distinction between the African American nannies and the snobby White housewives. Since they grew up in a time where African Americans were highly discriminated against, the nannies used very poor grammar, due to lack of education. The housewives spoke clearly and properly. |
| style | An author's style is how the author writes using diction, literary devices and other writing styles that makes the author stand out from other writers. (Delaplane 2) | A classic example of style is Edgar Allen Poe. Through his poetic diction and morbid plots one can easily catch one to Poe's style. | One modern example of style is Nicholas Sparks. His writing and movies are romantic novels with almost identical plot lines, only with different characters and setting. |
| synecdoche | (Marisa 2) |  |  |
| theme | A theme is an idea that is repeated throughout a literary work, representing a general moral or social idea (Kelsey, 2). | One classic example of theme is that of Dante's inferno. Through examples of imagery and figurative language the theme of man's journey for discovery is demonstrated. | One modern example of theme would be in Harry Potter. The theme demonstrated is the common theme of good vs. evil, the struggle between doing the right thing, and the temptation of the dark side. |
| thesis | A thesis is a proposed argument defining and outlining the main concepts of a written work. (Gonzalez, 2) | A classical example of a thesis can be shown through the play Romeo and Juliet. Its a classic story about two teens who fall in love despite their family feud and the only way they can be together is through death. | In the book the Perks of Being a Wallflower a thesis is clearly shown. The book explains that even though many students in high school go through struggles, they always find a way to overcome them because of the friends they make and the experiences that they have. |
| triad |  |  |  |
| tropes | The use of a word or phrase in a non-literal sense, having an implied meaning. Various kinds of literary terms fall under this category. Irony, metaphors, metonymy, and synecdoche all imply a greater meaning making them tropes.  (Emma 2) | "Next to being married, a girl likes to be crossed a little in love now and then." (Pride and Prejudice) ironic |  |
| +metaphor | Comparison between two unlike things without using like or as. (Quentin 3) | The poem *The Road Not Taken*by Robert Frost hosts an extended metaphor in which he uses the traveler who is trying to determine which road to travel down and compares this to making a life decision and how it will affect your life. | “Life's a journey not a destination  And I just can't tell just what tomorrow brings.” Aerosmith’s *Amazing* |
| +simile | A figure of speech in which two things are compared, using the words “like” or “as”, in order to draw attention to the similarities between the two things being compared, which usually seem to have nothing in common. (Vignesh Sivaganesh 3) | "Your profusion makes me saving; and if you lament over him much longer, *my heart will be as light as a feather.*” (Pride and Prejudice) | "You could make out *his eyes, glinting like black beetles* under all that hair." (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone) |
| +metonymy | The substitution of a specific word with a different term that features similar symbolic or literal attributes.  (Hong 2) | "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears." (Mark Antony from Julius Caesar) | "The pen is mightier than the sword." (Richelieu) |
| +synecdoche | Synecdoche is a literary term that is used when a writer wants to state a part but refer to the whole. This usually occurs with a small part of something is referring back to its entirety or vice versa.(Kamble 5) | Art Not Ashamed to look upon this beard?  (Lear) (Here the beard represents King Lear as a whole, and not just Lear’s beard) | “Thats a nice set of wheels” (Grease)(Wheels refers to the entire car, not just the wheels on the car) |
| +onomatopoeia | the word form of a sound; the word is created by phonetically converting the sound into a word that when said out loud imitates the sound. (Duff 5) | "Hark, hark!  Bow-wow.  The watch-dogs bark!  Bow-wow.  Hark, hark! I hear  The strain of strutting chanticleer  Cry, 'cock-a-diddle-dow!'"  (Shakespeare's The Tempest)  Bow-wow and cock-a-diddle-dow are both words that imitate the sounds of dogs barking or rooster crowing. | “Tick tock, on the clock  But the party don't stop, no.”  (Ke$ha, Tik Tok)  "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is."  (Alka Seltzer Slogan)  "Meep. Meep." (Roadrunner) |
| +hyperbolensh | (Slotnick 3) | Description of Othellos rage to iago |  |
| +meiosis | The use of understatement to dramatize or prove a point. Often used to heighten the impact of a given scene/moment/characteristic by essentially passing it off as less important. (Ex. Calling the Pacific Ocean "the pond") (Saturday 3) | An example of meiosis occurs in Shakespeare’s “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet,” when Mercutio is stabbed by Tybalt and passes the wound off as “a scratch.” (Act 3, Scene 1) | In J.D. Salinger’s “The Catcher in the Rye,” protagonist Holden Caulfield states, “It isn’t very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain,” using meiosis to provide a drastic understatement for a serious problem. |
| +litotes | A litotes is an understatement that is emphasized through negating the opposite.  (Schneider 5) | "That [sword] was not useless / to the warrior now." (Beowulf) | “Well, my five year old daughter could do that and let me tell you, she's not the brightest bulb in the tanning bed."  (Juno) |
| +oxymoron | A sort of paradox in which two contradicting terms are placed side by side to form an idea that seems impossible. For example: random order.  (Sereno 3) | “No light, but rather darkness visible  Served only to discover sights of woe”.  (Paradise Lost) | AMC’s “The Walking Dead” is an example of an oxymoron. The dead cannot actually walk, making this scenario impossible. |
| +paradox | A combination of contradictory thoughts or statements. Though initially puzzling, paradoxes emphasize valid truth by making audiences consider messages in different ways. (Vasquez 3) | In Shakespeare's Macbeth, the paradox "Fair is foul, and Foul is fair" is an ongoing theme, emphasizing the idea that things can be different than they appear. (Macbeth) | Raymond Smullyan wrote a book entitled “This Book Needs No Title: A Budget of Living Paradoxes”, which is of course paradoxical because the statement explaining that a title is not needed is, indeed, the books title. |
| +juxtaposition | To place something side by side to compare and typically to reflect or highlight certain ***contrasting*** qualities whether it be characters, ideas, things, etc. Juxtaposition is a great tool to enhance an important key to a novel because it allows for a deeper understanding of the portrayed notion.  *(ex: good v. evil)*  (Zumwalt 3) | In Shakespeare’s Macbeth, Macbeth’s character is juxtaposed by his Lady Macbeth. Lady Macbeth shows a devious and evil demeanor naturally whereas Macbeth actually shows hesitance to doing the acts his wife is so willing to do. Macbeth’s evil prospers out of Lady Macbeth’s insistence. His actions are curated by his wife as opposed to coming from his own will. | “My house was at the very tip of the egg, only fifty yards from the Sound, and squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season. The one on my right was a colossal affair by any standard-it was a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, spanking new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming pool, and more than forty acres of lawn and garden.”…”My own house was an eyesore, but it was a small eyesore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor’s lawn, and the consoling proximity of millionaires-all for eighty dollars a month.”  (Great Gatsby, By F. Scott Fitzgerald) - compares lavish homes to his dwelling |
| +apostrophe | The act of addressing someone or something that is not physically present in the scene. It is as if the character is speaking to this person or thing as if it were present at the time of the speech. (Steiker 5) | “Oh! Stars and clouds and winds, ye are all about to mock me; if ye really pity me, crush sensation and memory; let me become as nought; but if not, depart, depart, and leave me in darkness” (Frankenstein). | “Hello darkness, my old friend, I’ve come to talk with you again.”  (Paul Simon - “The Sound of Silence”) |
| +figurative lang. | Words or phrases used differently than the literal meaning in order to evoke certain images or emotions, most commonly to emphasize, clarify, or compare. Similes, metaphors, hyperboles, alliteration, personification, and onomatopoeia are all examples of figurative language.  Also known as figures of speech. (Porter 2) | "As Indian Moors obey their Spanish lords,  So shall the spirits of every element  Be always serviceable to us three;  Like lions shall they guard us when we please;  Like Almain rutters with their horsemen's staves,  Or Lapland giants, trotting by our sides" (The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus) | “Blue jeans, white shirt, walked into the room, you know you made my eyes burn. It was like James Dean, for sure. You’re so fresh to death and sick as ca-cancer” (Lana Del Rey, Blue Jeans) |
| +schemes | A methodical arrangement for acquiring a specific object or by arranging certain ideas or concepts and finding the outcome of them. (Stutson 2) | There have been many classic examples of schemes in Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird” particularly having to do with the children trying to investigate Boo Radley’s house. They put a plan into action having to do with them trying to send a letter by using a fishing pole and casting the letter up against the window. This plan makes it easy for them to see Boo Radley without him seeing them. Since they are so curious to understand what kind of person Boo Radley is, and from the rumors they’ve heard about him, they come up with many ideas to put into action to finally see the kind of person Boo Radley really is with their very own eyes (Mockingbird). | We see many examples today of schemes used in modern day entertainment. In the Disney Channel original series, “That’s So Raven”, there are plenty examples of schemes used. Every time a disaster occurs Raven always comes up with a scheme to try and fix it, yet her plans always consist of disguising herself to try and fix the situation. Another example would be in the movie Inception, they sum up many ideas which involves dreaming, which is how they create their plans and by dreaming, they are putting them into effect. |
| unities (3) |  |  |  |
| verisimilitudes | What one reads appears realistic or believable in a fictional work. If the author successfully convinces the audience that something fictional could happen in real life, they have done their job. In works of science fiction of fantasy, it is used to convince the audience to suspend disbelief (Alvarado 2). | In George Orwell’s *1984* there is verisimilitude in the sense that its a depiction of a totalitarian society in the future that is probable to occur and therefore scares the audience out of any path that could lead them to such a fate. | In *Jurassic Park*, scientists explain the science behind the creation of dinosaurs through extracting the blood from prehistoric mosquitoes fossilized in amber. This scene allows us to disregard any disbelief of the dinosaurs’ existence; in fact most of the audience might even wonder if it is actually scientifically possible. |
| vernacular | The domestic or native language of the people of a country or geographical area or the everyday lingo of a people. The common slang. (Holcombe 3) | "It was fifteen minutes before I could work myself up to go and humble myself to a nigger; but I done it, and I warn't ever sorry for it afterwards, neither. I didn't do him no more men tricks, and I wouldn't done that one if I'd a knowed it would make him feel that way." (Huck Finn). In this use of vernacular, it shows how educated Huck Finn is. Even though he is fairly illiterate, one can tell that he has some knowledge of the English language. | Harry potter uses many terms that are not common English. Examples of this are terms like "half-blood" or "muggle". There are also many British terms mixed in with the wizard slang such as "bloody hell". This vernacular helps set the setting of the story and helps the reader determine someone's nationality. |
| wergild/wyrd | Wergild: A person’s worth/value to be paid to the person's family by their murderer.  Wyrd: The unalterable force of fate  (Bustamante 5) | Wergild: “Once your father brought about a great feud when he killed Heathoaf with his own hand among the Wulfings.....I then paid to settle the feud for your father.”(Beowulf, lines 459-470)  Wyrd: “If battle bears me off, send to Hygelac the best 0f war-garments defending my beast....Wyrd goes ever as it must.”(Beowulf, lines 452-455) | In the *The Monkey’s Paw*, the paw was created by a holy man who, “wanted to show that fate ruled people's lives, and that those who interfered with it did so to their sorrow.” Wergild can also be observed in the same story when Herbert is killed in an accident at work. The company sends his family two-hundred pounds in compensation. |
| willing suspension of disbelief | An acceptance of new or uncommon ideas to better the understanding and appreciation of literary works or theatrical performances; used by audiences (Delgado 5) |  |  |
| zeitgeist | Literally broken down to “Spirit of the Time or Age." The spirit of the age means what values and trends were sought in a specific time period. It refers mostly to the political, artistic, and social trends of a given environment.  (Aurand 3) | Dante’s Inferno outlines the spirit of the age in the various circles of hell where political, artistic, and social trends are taken as being sinful but still occur in Dante’s society. (Dante’s Inferno) | The Hunger Games reveals a world where different societies are broken into districts and how they host a universal game that signifies peace for the districts to maintain a good political standing with one another. |