

Term, Phrase, or Expression	Simple Definition	Comprehension Support
abstract imagery or language	Describes ideas, emotions feelings; intangible	"The complexity of the argument left me confused."
alliteration	Repetition of first sound in a series of words	"Sally sells sea shells"
allusion	Reference outside the text	"He is as old as Methuselah"
assonance	Repetition of vowel sounds	
cliche	Trite image or phrase, unoriginal	"He is on fire"
climax	Highest point of action, when conflict is at most intense	
conflict	Problem facing protagonist	Gatsby wants to rekindle romance with Daisy but she is married.
connotation	Associations an image or phrase carries beyond its literal meaning,	
concrete imagery or language	Describes the physical, tangible or sensory	"The black dog ran across the green field"
denotation	Literal meaning of word or phrase	
epiphany	sudden interior revelation, moment of heightened awareness, lightbulb moment	
etymology	History or origin of word or phrase	
figurative language	Uses figures of speech, is not literal, needs interpretation	

foreshadowing	Language or action early in a story that hints at or prefigures later events	
hyperbole	Exaggeration used for rhetorical effect	
irony	contrast	
metaphor	Comparison; the apt relation of dissimilars	
myth	Story with shape's cultural world view or relates profound truths about life's mysteries	
onomatopoeia	Words or phrases which imitate sounds	
oxymoron	Phrase made up of two contradictory terms	
palindrome	Phrase spelled the same forwards and backwards	
personification	Giving human attributes to something that is not human	
plot	The action or sequence of events that make up a story	
resolution	How the conflict is settled	
rhyme scheme	Pattern of end rhyme in a poem	
setting	Where the action takes place	
simile	Explicit comparison, usually signalled by "like" or "as"	
subtext	Undertone or implicit message in a scene or conversation	

symbol	An object that takes on more than one level of meaning in a text; a sign has a fixed meaning	
theme	An idea that is explored in a text,	
thesis	Central argument or proposition in an essay	
tone	Emotional content of a passage or the writer's attitude towards the subject	
voice	Unique style of writer, composed of many elements: syntax, diction, content, use of figurative language	