

# ENGLISH I LITERARY TERMS

## Point of View

- narrator
- first-person narrator
- limited third person narrator
- omniscient narrator

## Conflict

- external conflict
- internal conflict
- resolution

## Plot Structure

- exposition
- initiating action
- rising action
- falling action
- denouement
- climax
- flashback
- foreshadowing
- suspense
- reversal

## Character

- protagonist
- antagonist
- foil character
- round character
- flat character
- dynamic character
- static character
- motivation

## Characterization

- direct characterization
- indirect characterization

## Irony

- situational irony
- verbal irony

- dramatic irony
- tragic irony

## Drama

- dramatis personae
- act
- scene
- aside
- monologue
- soliloquy
- catastrophe
- chorus
- tragic flaw
- unities

## Poetry

- blank verse
- Homeric simile
- iambic pentameter
- metaphor
- personification
- simile

## Miscellaneous

- allusion
- digression
- epithet
- juxtaposition
- symbol
- theme
- tone

## Genres

- autobiography
- Bildungsroman
- drama
- epic
- tragedy

initiating action	second stage of plot structure; event which brings opposing forces into conflict for the first time
internal conflict	struggle within the character person vs. self person vs. fate/destiny
irony	discrepancy between expectation and reality
juxtaposition	side by side placement of elements to emphasize contrast
limited third person narrator	narrator is not a character within the events related, but stands outside those events; referred to as "he", "she", or "they"; knows the thoughts and feelings of only one character through whom all information is screened
metaphor	implied comparison between two unlike things
monologue	extended speech uttered by one speaker either to other characters or to the audience
motivation	justification of the action of a character involving convincing and impelling reason for an action
narrator	one who tells, or is assumed to be telling, the story in a given narrative
omniscient narrator	an all-knowing kind of narrator; narrator has full knowledge of the story's events and of the motives and unspoken thought of the various characters
persona	the assumed identity or fictional "I" assumed by a writer in a literary work
personification	figure of speech by which animals, abstract ideas, or inanimate things are given human qualities
plot structure	sequence of related events and situations to emphasize cause and effect and to elicit reader interest
point of view	position or vantage point from which the events of a story seem to be observed and presented to the reader (see types of narrators)
protagonist	the principal character of a work
resolution	final and permanent settlement of the conflict
reversal	change of protagonist's fortune
rising action	third stage of plot development; separate events which advance the conflict to its crucial point when protagonist action which determines the future course of conflict irrevocably

round character	complex mixture of motivations/thoughts
scene	a subdivision of an act or of a play not divided into acts; usually represents actions happening in one place at one time
setting	physical and/or spiritual background against which the action takes place
simile	explicit comparison of two unlike things
situational irony	event directly contradicts expectations of the character(s) and/or the reader
soliloquy	dramatic speech uttered by one character speaking aloud while alone on stage; reveals inner thoughts and feelings to the audience
static character	a character who does not change in course of the work
style	specific way of using language, including diction, syntax, imagery, rhythm, etc.
suspense	anticipation of the reader as to the outcome of events
symbol	something that stands for or represents something else in addition to its own meaning
theme	the main point of a work: universal statement about human nature
tone	the author's or narrator's attitude toward the subject or the reader (described by an adjective)
tragedy	serious play (or work) representing the disastrous downfall of the protagonist
tragic flaw	defect of character that brings about the protagonist's downfall in a tragedy
tragic irony	audience knows plot and outcome before the work begins
unities	three principles of dramatic structure: unity of time, place, and action
verbal irony	words are used to suggest the opposite of their usually meaning

