



Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Literary and other Terms: Definitions/Notes

1. **Author:** A writer of a piece of text/writing
2. **Alliteration:** The repetition of beginning consonant sounds of words in a sentence or line
3. **Antagonist:** The character in conflict or struggle with the protagonist
4. **Character trait:** Those qualities that define personality, values and beliefs
5. **Characterization:** The way an author creates characters through description (what character looks like), dialogue (what they say/what others say to them or about them), and action (what they do or how others react to them).
6. **Climax:** Moment in literature where the crisis/problem/conflict reaches its greatest intensity; the turning point of the story; most exciting part of the story
7. **Conflict:** Problem between two or more opposing forces
8. **Connotation:** The feeling of a word.
9. **Context:** The circumstances that surround/form the setting for an event, statement, or idea. Part of a text that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines meaning
10. **Denotation:** The dictionary definition of a word.
11. **Drama:** Narrative (story) involving conflict (problem) between character(s) and some internal or external force
12. **Dynamic Character:** Also known as a "round" character--a character who changes throughout the course of the story
13. **Epiphany:** An illuminating discovery or realization
14. **Exposition:** Introduction of a story; background is given, characters are introduced, setting is established
15. **External Conflict:** Conflict occurring outside the character (character v. character, character v. nature, character v. society)
16. **Falling Action:** Events after the climax in a story. The conflict begins to unravel and fix itself.
17. **Fiction:** Type of literary genre written in prose form, which describes imaginary events and people

37. **Plot:** The series of events that make-up a story
38. **Poetry:** Literary genre characterized by rhythmical pattern of language. Written in lines
39. **Point of view:** The way a story gets told and from whose perspective; controls the readers' access to the narrative and events
40. **Prediction:** Educated guess
41. **Protagonist:** The main character in a work of fiction
42. **Repetition:** Repeating of a word or idea, done for emphasis
43. **Resolution:** The ending of a story; the conflict is resolved
44. **Rhyme:** Matching similarity of sounds in two or more words
45. **Rising Action:** The events leading up to the climax in a story. The conflict is revealed and characters are developed.
46. **Sensory Language:** Words and details that appeal to reader's senses (sight, touch, taste, hearing, smell, emotion). Makes writing more interesting and creates imagery to enhance understanding by the reader
47. **Setting:** Place, location, time, year and circumstances in which story/action take place
48. **Simile:** Type of figurative language that compares two unlike objects/things/ideas using the words "like" or "as"
49. **Stage Direction:** In drama, the printed text in a play that indicates actors' actions or activity, not what they say.
50. **Static Character:** Simple character who does not change or alter personality
51. **Stereotype:** An oversimplified representation/characterization of a character/person based on their gender, class, occupation, religion, ethnicity, etc
52. **Symbol:** Something that represents something else
53. **Theme:** Author's comment/observation/idea/statement about life
54. **Thesis:** In an essay, the argument that the author develops and supports
55. **Third Person Narrator:** Outside narrator standing outside the story reporting on what is happening. Uses he, she, they, etc...
56. **Tone:** The way somebody says something; in writing, tone is created by diction and punctuation, setting
57. **Topic:** The subject of a text