**English Language Arts 20-1 Course Glossary**

**active voice**

a way of using a verb whereby the subject of the sentence is doing an action (as opposed to passive voice)

**allegory**

a work that uses symbolic characters and events to express generalizations or truths about human life

**alliteration**

the repetition of words with the same beginning consonant sound

**allusion**

in literature, a reference to someone or something with which the writer assumes readers will be familiar—often an historical, literary, or mythological person or event

**anagnorisis**

from the Greek for “recognition,” it is the moment of discovery that enables a character to progress from ignorance to knowledge

**analogy**

a comparison or similarity extended beyond a simple metaphor or simile

**analytical essay**

a type of essay that examines and analyzes a work of literature or art

**anecdote**

a short, truthful account of some interesting or amusing incident used to illustrate a point

**antagonist**

the force a story's protagonist must overcome to achieve a desired outcome

**antecedent**

the noun to which a pronoun refers

**anthology**

a collection of literary selections by a variety of writers

**antihero**

a protagonist who has the opposite of most of the traditional attributes of a hero

**antithesis**

ideas which contrast each other and have parallel word groupings. Example: “sink or swim”

**apostrophe**

in literature, speaking to an inanimate object or absent person as if s/he is present

**archetype**

a pattern that appears repeatedly in literature

**articulation**

the clarity of speech

**aside**

a short speech that is heard only by the audience and not by any of the other characters in a play

**assonance**

repetition of vowel sounds within words to create a near-rhyme. Example: “happy cats prance”

**autobiography**

the story of a person's life written by the person

**ballad**

a narrative poem originally meant to be sung

**blank verse**

unrhymed iambic pentameter

**brainstorming**

generating as many ideas as possible without restraint or criticism

**cacophony**

the use of harsh sounds in literary composition

**catharsis**

meaning “purgation”; purification by way of an emotional release

**cite**

quote or refer to as an example

**cliché**

an overused expression

**coherence**

in writing, the clear connection of ideas and details

**colloquial**

ordinary, conversational language

**comic relief**

humour designed to ease the tension in an otherwise serious context

**composition**

in visual communication, the arrangement of the subject matter

**conflict**

in literature, the struggle between the protagonist and an opposing force

**connotation**

the implied meaning of a word

**consonance**

the repetition of consonant sounds within words. Example: “his fist struck the stage”

**context**

the time, situation, environment, and set of circumstances in which an event occurs

**contrast**

highlights the differences between or among things

**coordinating conjunction**

a word used to join words or groups of words: are and, or, nor, for, but, so, yet

**couplet**

in poetry, two consecutive rhyming lines written in the same metre

**deductive reasoning**

a method of reasoning that begins with a theory or general principle which is then applied to particular cases

**denotation**

the literal meaning of a word

**descriptive essay**

a type of essay in which the author describes some person, event, etc. in significant detail

**dialogue**

conversation

**diction**

choice of words and level of language

**dilemma**

a situation in which a person must choose between two equally unsatisfactory alternatives

**dissonance**

a mingling or union of harsh, inharmonious sounds which are grating to the ear

**dramatic irony**

a form of irony in which there is a difference between what the audience knows and what a character believes to be true editorial

**end rhyme**

rhyme occurring in the final syllables of two or more lines of poetry

**enjambment**

when one line of poetry continues into the next line without a pause

**epic**

an extended narrative poem, usually about a hero

**euphony**

the use of harmonious-sounding words

**exposition**

part of a work of fiction that introduces characters and provides background information

**expository essay**

a type of essay, the purpose of which is to explain a topic or issue.

**external conflict**

a problem or struggle between a person and a physical force (person-versus-environment conflict) or between people (person-versus-person conflict)

**flashback**

a narrative technique whereby a writer breaks off the narration to relate preceding events

**foil**

a character with a personality trait that strongly contrasts a trait of another character

**foot**

in poetry, a unit usually consisting of one stressed syllable and one or two unstressed syllables

**foreground**

in a visual representation, the objects nearest the viewer formal

**foreshadowing**

the providing of hints about events that will occur later in a story

**free verse**

poetry without a fixed rhyme scheme or metrical pattern

**hamartia**

“some error or frailty” that brings about misfortune for the tragic hero (Aristotle)

**homonym**

a word that has the same pronunciation as another word but a different spelling and meaning

**hubris**

excessive pride or self-confidence that leads a protagonist to violate an important moral law

**hyperbole**

the use of exaggeration

**iambic pentameter**

consists of five iambic feet per line. An iamb consists of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.

**imagery**

words used to paint pictures or appeal to the senses of the reader or listener

**independent clause**

a clause that can stand as a sentence on its own

**inductive reasoning**

a method of reasoning that involves an examination of individual instances or examples and the subsequent development of a theory or general principle about them

**inference**

a conclusion made by weighing evidence

**inflection**

change in pitch and volume

**interjection**

a word expressing emotion or surprise

**internal conflict**

a mental or moral dilemma or struggle (also known as a person-versus-self conflict)

**juxtaposition**

the act of positioning two things next to each other for effect

**key-word strategy**

a way of linking ideas in an essay or report by selecting a key word or phrase from the thesis statement and repeating the word at the beginning of other paragraphs

**litotes**

a statement is expressed by denying its opposite

**medium**

a means through which a message is communicated

**memoir**

a record of a person's experiences

**metaphor**

a comparison between two unlike things without using the words like or as

**metre**

the number of feet (or stressed syllables) in a line of poetry

**monologue**

a single speaker reveals his or her character by addressing an implied audience

**monotone**

a tone of voice that lacks expression and variety of intonation

**mood**

the pervasive feeling or impression produced by a text

**motif**

a recurring theme or image

**narrative essay**

an essay that relies mainly on narration (storytelling) to make its point

**narrator**

the person telling a story. First person narrators are characters within the story. Third person narrators are not characters. Third person narrators can be further categorized as omniscient (all-knowing), limited-omniscient (knowing the thoughts of only one character) or objective (without knowledge of the thoughts or feelings of any characters).

**non-fiction**

deals with information and facts

**octave**

a group of eight lines of poetry

**ode**

a poem addressed to a praised person or object

**onomatopoeia**

the use of words that imitate the sound represented by the word

**oxymoron**

the juxtaposition of two contradictory words

**pace**

the speed at which a presentation is made

**paradox**

a situation or statement that appears to be contradictory or inconsistent yet is, in fact, not

**parallelism**

the repeated use of the same grammatical form or structure

**parody**

satirizes someone or something by imitating it

**passive voice**

a way of using a verb whereby the subject of the sentence is receiving an action

**pathetic fallacy**

involves the personification of nature which is portrayed as being emotionally sensitive

**peripeteia**

a reversal of fortune for the protagonist of a literary work

**personal essay**

a type of essay that presents the author’s personal opinions but does not necessarily attempt to persuade the reader of anything

**personification**

the assigning of human qualities to non-human subjects

**persuasive essay**

a type of essay, the purpose of which is to persuade the reader to adopt the author’s perspective. Some people differentiate between persuasive and argumentative essays, claiming that persuasive essays appeal to the reader’s emotions, while argumentative essays appeal to reason through facts and logical arguments

**plagiarize**

to use an author's words or ideas without acknowledgement

**primary source**

an original source of information such as a person who has direct knowledge of an event or an experience

**projection**

the degree to which a speaker's voice carries

**propaganda**

beliefs and ideas deliberately spread, often by distortion and deception, to further a cause

**protagonist**

the main character who has a goal to achieve

**pun**

a play on words that relies on a word having more than one meaning

**purpose**

what an author hopes to accomplish through his/her writing

**quatrain**

a group of four lines of poetry

**revising**

in writing, the process of revisiting and reworking the content and organization of an earlier draft

**rhetorical question**

a question that is asked for effect and does not expect a response

**rising action**

the part of a work of fiction that builds tension and leads up to the climax of the plot

**satire**

in literature, the ridiculing of human vice or stupidity in order to expose and correct it

**sestet**

a group of six lines of poetry

**simile**

a comparison between two unlike things using the words like or as

**situational irony**

a form of irony in which what happens is not consistent with what one would expect

**slang**

the current colloquial expressions used by a group of people

**slant**

a bias or a personal viewpoint that colours the way a story is written

**soliloquy**

a speech given by a character alone on stage expressing his or her thoughts and feelings

**sonnet**

a fourteen-line poem with a fixed rhyme scheme standard

**stanza**

lines in a poem that have been grouped together for effect

**style**

a person's individual manner of expression

**subordinating conjunction**

a word that joins a dependent clause to an independent clause

**symbol**

something that stands for, or represents, something else

**synonyms**

words having the same, or very similar, meanings

**tercet**

a stanza composed of three lines

**theme**

the central idea or insight about life that emerges from a piece of literature

**thesis**

the main argument of a writer or speaker; the central point he or she wants to make

**tone**

an attitude reflected in word choices, sentence structures, and emphasis

**tragedy**

in traditional drama, a serious play that usually involves the downfall of a great and/or good person because of some fatal flaw in his or her character

**tragic hero**

a person of stature who possesses a character flaw which ultimately leads to his downfall; he is not a victim of fate. Usually, before his death, a tragic hero accepts responsibility for his actions

**understatement**

the opposite of hyperbole

**verbal irony**

a form of irony in which the implicit meaning of a speaker differs from the explicit message

**voice**

in writing, the personal and recognizable style of a writer

**voice-over**

the voice of an unseen narrator on a TV show or in a movie