

Instructional Vocabulary

English 1

Unit 1: Beginning the Journey with Fiction and Literary Nonfiction

- **Nonlinear Plot** – a plot becomes non-linear through the use of literary techniques; may be hard to follow and seem somewhat disorganized
- **Irony** – a literary technique used to create meaning that seems to contradict the literal meaning or events
- **Sarcasm** – bitter form a of irony, intended to taunt or hurt
- **Paradox** – a seemingly contradictory statement that on closer scrutiny reveals a deeper truth (e.g., *life is but a dream*)
- **Rhetorical purpose** – the author's primary aim in a piece of writing. The rhetorical purpose could be to narrate, to argue, to review, to explain, or to examine

Unit 2A: Continuing the Journey through Poetry

- **Diction** – choice of words in speaking or writing for clear and effective expression
- **Figurative language** - language not intended to be taken literally but layered with meaning through the use of imagery, metaphors, and other literary devices
- **Imagery** – the use of language to create mental images and sensory impressions. Imagery can be used for emotional effect and to intensify the impact on the reader. (e.g., the imagery of the phrase *such sweet sorrow*)
- **Understatement** - a rhetorical technique, often incorporating irony and humor, in which something is represented as less than it actually is.
- **Overstatement** - an exaggerated statement
- **Irony** - a literary technique used to create meaning that seems to contradict the literal meaning or events
- **Verbal irony** - the use of words in which the intended meaning is contrary to the literal meaning (e.g., *I could care less*).
- **Paradox** - a seemingly contradictory statement that on closer scrutiny reveals a deeper truth (e.g., *life is but a dream*)

Unit 2B: Moving Forward with Drama

- **Monologue** – a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a single character, either alone or to others
- **Soliloquy** – a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a character while or as if alone; literally, "talking to oneself."
- **Dramatic irony** – a dramatic device in which a character says or does something that they do not fully grasp but is understood by the audience
- **Paradox** – a seemingly contradictory statement that on closer scrutiny reveals a deeper truth (e.g., *Life is but a dream.*)
- **Script** - a written version of the speech and actions of performers, as in a play or film
- **Explicit theme** - *the author overtly states the theme somewhere within the work*
- **Implicit theme** - refers to the author's ability to construct a piece in such a way that through inference the reader understands the theme

- **Mood** - the atmosphere or feeling created by the writer in a literary work or passage. Mood can be expressed through imagery, word choice, setting, voice, and theme. For example, the mood evoked in Edgar Allan Poe's work is gloomy and dark.
- **Tone** - the author's particular attitude, either stated or implied in the writing

Unit 3: Using Informational Text

- **Summarize** – to reduce large sections of text to their essential points and main ideas. Note: It is still important to attribute summarized ideas to the original.
- **Critique** – holds and/or expresses opinions, takes a position
- **Opinion** – a personal belief, view, or judgment
- **Substantiated** – verified, proven, confirmed
- **Unsubstantiated** – has not been verified, proven, or confirmed
- **Controlling idea** - the main point or underlying direction of a piece of writing. A controlling idea makes the reader ask a question that will be answered by reading more or helps the reader understand the author's purpose for writing the paragraph or essay.
- **Transitional words and phrases** - words or phrases that help to sustain a thought or idea through the writing. They link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

Unit 4: Intentional Persuasion

- **Rhetorical fallacy** – an argument that is not sound but may still be convincing. Rhetorical fallacies may be divided into three categories:
 - 1) Emotional fallacies appeal to the audience's emotions.
 - 2) Ethical fallacies unreasonably advance the writer's own authority or character.
 - 3) Logical fallacies depend upon faulty logic
- **Thesis** – a statement or premise supported by arguments
- **Formality in media** – refers to the level of sophistication in language, word choice, appearance, and delivery of media messages
- **Tone in media** – the stated or implied attitude and/or reputation of a media outlet (e.g., humorous, sentimental, hostile, sympathetic, neutral, etc.)

Unit 5A: Genre Connections

- **Character foil** – a secondary character who contrasts with the protagonist in order to highlight aspects of the main character's personality. Foils may be sidekicks (e.g., Han Solo to Luke Skywalker) or enemies (e.g., The Joker to Batman).
- **Controlling idea** – the main point or underlying direction of a piece of writing. A controlling idea makes the reader ask a question that will be answered by reading more or helps the reader understand the author's purpose for writing the paragraph or essay.
- **Literary device** – a specific convention or structure—such as imagery, irony, or foreshadowing—that is employed by the author to produce a given effect. Literary devices are important aspects of an author's style.
- **Interpretative response** – an analysis of a piece of literature in which the writer takes apart what was written by another author and explains it

Unit 5B: College and Career Literacy

- **Summarize** – to reduce large sections of text to their essential points and main ideas. Note: It is still important to attribute summarized ideas to the original.
- **Subtle inference** – readers make inferences by drawing conclusions, making generalizations, and making predictions. A subtle inference is one in which the bits of information are not as easily connected.
- **Drawing conclusions** – a form of inference in which the reader gathers information, considers the general thoughts or ideas that emerge from the information, and comes to a decision. The conclusion is generally based on more than one piece of information.

Unit 6: Inquiring Minds

- **Valid source** – a correct and truthful source. Some questions useful for evaluating validity of a source might be: *Does the author present facts with supporting evidence? Does the information in this source match information in other sources?*
- **Reliable source** – credible or believable source. Some questions to evaluate credibility might be: *Is the author a respected authority on the subject? Does the author support opinions with strong argumentation and reasoning? How current is the information?*
- **Authoritative sources** – sources written by reliable people who have the proper education, experience, and credentials on a topic or issue