

## Instructional Vocabulary

### English IV

#### Unit 1: Exploring British Literature

- **Nuance** – a subtle distinction or fine detail
- **Universal theme** – transcends social and cultural boundaries and speaks to a common human experience
- **Subplot** – a secondary or minor plot in a literary work which may contrast with the main plot, highlight it, or be completely unrelated
- **Moral dilemma/quandary** – a state of perplexity or uncertainty, especially as to what to do (right and wrong)
- **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.

#### Unit 2A: Evaluating Poetry Across Time

- **Conceit** – an extended metaphor in poetry or literature that is often fanciful or elaborate
- **Graphical element** – capital letters, line length, and word position; also called the shape of the poem
- **Allusion** – a reference within a literary work to another work of literature, art, or real event. The reference is often brief and implied.
- **Extended metaphor** – a metaphor in which the comparison is carried through several lines or even the entire literary work
- **Tone** – the author's particular attitude, either stated or implied in the writing (e.g., serious, humorous, logical, emotional)

#### Unit 2B: Evaluating Drama Across Time

- **Classical play** – a play that is widely acknowledged for its outstanding and enduring qualities (e.g., *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare)
- **Allusion** – a reference within a literary work to another work of literature, art, or real event. The reference is often brief and implied.
- **Conceit** – an extended metaphor in poetry or literature which is often fanciful or elaborate (e.g., *Our eye-beams twisted, and did thread/Our eyes upon one double string* in John Donne's "The Extasie")
- **Extended metaphor** – a metaphor in which the comparison is carried through several lines or even the entire literary work
- **Tone** – the author's particular attitude, either stated or implied in the writing (e.g., serious, humorous, logical, emotional)
- **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
- **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 he or she does not fully grasp, but is understood by the audience

### Unit 3: Analyzing Techniques in Literary Nonfiction

- **Ambiguity** – the state of being unclear and difficult to understand
- **Contradiction** – expresses the opposite of a statement
- **Subtlety** – not open or direct
- **Irony** – a literary technique used to create meaning that seems to contradict the literal meaning or events (e.g., verbal, situational, dramatic)
- **Verbal irony** – the use of words in which the intended meaning is contrary to the literal meaning (e.g., *I could care less.*)
- **Situational irony** – a literary technique for implying, through plot or character, that the actual situation is quite different from that presented
- **Sarcasm** – a bitter form 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.*)
- **Overstatement** – an exaggerated statement
- **Literary essay** – an essay that relates an actual experience, event, or perspective on a topic using the techniques and elements of literary writing

### Unit 4: Synthesizing Informational Text

- **Inductive reasoning** – the process of determining general principles by logic or observation from specific data; reasoning from parts to whole (e.g., *all ice I've ever felt is cold; therefore, all ice is cold*)
- **Deductive reasoning** – the process of logical reasoning from general principles to specific instances based on the assumed truth of the principle; reasoning from wholes to parts.
- **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.
- **Accessible language** – language that is used so that readers who are unfamiliar with the subject can comprehend the text or discussion with ease

### Unit 5: Inquiry and Synthesis Through Research

- **Rhetorical device** – a technique that an author or speaker uses to influence or persuade an audience
- Major research question – one clear, significant, researchable question that can be discussed and answered by collecting information from various sources
- **Primary source** – a source from the time in which an event being studied occurred and created by someone who was present at the event. Examples of primary source documents include letters, speeches, diaries, surveys, fieldwork, and personal interviews.
- **Secondary source** – a source that is a step removed from the original accounts of an event or experience
- **Theory** – any systematic and coherent collection of ideas that relate to a specific subject
- **Evidence** – everything that is used to determine or demonstrate the truth about an assertion

## Unit 6: Evaluating Merits of Argument

- **Implicit assumption** – an assumption that is not directly expressed but nonetheless understood either consciously or unconsciously
- **Stated assumption** – when an author clearly states the premise in a persuasive work
- **Multi-layered media** – the use of visuals (e.g., graphics), sound, text/print, and more
- **Bias** – a speaker's personal opinions or beliefs regarding a topic, issue, or situation
- **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.)
- **Argumentative essay** – an essay in which the writer develops or debates a topic using logic and persuasion
- **Tone** – the author's particular attitude, either stated or implied in the writing
- **Style** – the way something is written, in contrast to its content. (e.g., Hemingway's writing style is terse, blunt, and conversational.)
- **Level of formality** – formal, semiformal, or informal writing style determined by the writer's purpose and the intended audience