

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 8 ELAR

Unit 1: Analyzing Fiction and Drama

- **Protagonist** – a story's main character
- **Antagonist** – a character who opposes the protagonist
- **Subjective** – perspective is restricted to one character including their inner thoughts and feelings
- **Objective** – the narrator reveals only the actions and words without the benefit of the inner thoughts and feelings
- **Omniscient** – the narrator tells the story in third person from an all-knowing perspective. The knowledge is not limited by any one character's view or behavior, as the narrator knows everything about all the characters.
- **Limited** – the narrator restricts his or her knowledge to one character's view or behavior

Unit 2A: Analyzing Literary Nonfiction and Poetry

- **Aphorism** – a concise statement of a general truth or principle (e.g., *a penny saved is a penny earned*)
- **Epigraph** – a quotation at the beginning of a literary work to introduce its theme

Unit 2B: Analyzing Persuasive Text

- **Rhetorical fallacies** – an argument that is not sound but may still be convincing
- **Caricature** – a distortion of characteristics or defects of a person or thing, either in a picture or in words
- **Leading question** – a question worded to suggest the desired response (e.g., *What do you think of the horrible effects of socialism?*)
- **Loaded term** – a term or phrase that has strong emotional overtones and that is meant to evoke strong reactions beyond the specific meaning (e.g., *tax relief* instead of *tax cut*, or *death tax* instead of *estate tax*)
- **Incorrect premise** – a faulty idea that is used as the foundation of an argument
- **False assumption** – flawed ideas that emerge when a reader pieces information together solely by inference and fails to consider other possible interpretations

Unit 3: Analyzing Informational Text

- **Factual claim** - a statement that claims truth and contains no value language
- **Assertion** - an opinion or declaration stated with conviction
- **Opinion** - a personal view or belief based on emotions or interpretation of facts

Unit 4A: Creating Connections Across Literary Text

- **Myth** – a body of traditional or sacred stories to explain a belief or a natural happening
- **Theme** – the central or universal idea of a piece of fiction or the main idea of a nonfiction essay

Unit 4B: Creating Connections Across Informational Text

- **None Identified**

Unit 5A: Creating Connections Across All Genres

- **None Identified**

Unit 5B: Media Literacy

- **None Identified**

Unit 6: Producing Research

- **Paraphrase** – to restate the meaning of something in different words - Paraphrasing alters the exact wording of the source and transmits its ideas or information without evaluation or interpretation.
- **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 source.
- **Bibliographic information** – the locating information about a source (i.e., book, journal, periodical, or website); for example, a book's bibliographic information consists of author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication.
- **Plagiarize** – to present the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source
- **Reliable source** – a credible or believable source