

# INTRO TO LITERARY TERMS I

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## *Figures of Speech*

### *Definitions :*

1. **Alliteration** : is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words in a line of verse.
2. **Consonance** : is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the middle or the end of two or more words in a line of verse.
3. **Assonance** : is the repetition of the same vowel sound at the middle or the end of two or more words in a line of verse.
4. **Onomatopoeia** : a word whose sound suggests its meaning **in other words** the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named.
5. **Simile** : it is an explicit comparison with the help of (like or as). The comparison must be between two different things.
6. **Metaphor** : it is a comparison between two different things or objects which has been suggested, but it doesn't use (as or like)
7. **Dead Metaphor** : is a metaphor that loses its metaphorical beauty and freshness.
8. **Personification** : is giving an animated quality to an inanimate object.
9. **Conceit** : it is a far-fetched and elaborate comparison between two different things.
10. **Hyperbole** : an exaggeration for the sake of emphasis.
11. **Circumlocution** : it is a roundabout way of saying something which could have been put directly **in other words** the use of many words where fewer would do especially in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive.
12. **Metonymy** :
13. **Irony** : an expression which means the opposite meaning **in other words** the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning.
14. **Paradox** : an expression that appears contradictory but is not really i.e. it involves an element of truth.
15. **Apostrophe** : an address to an absent person as if he/she is present with us. The something we do with an idea.
16. **Euphemism** : an expression that tries to make something unpleasant and disagreeable.

17. **Parody** : it is a literary imitation which is designed to ridicule its original.
18. **Image** : a word or a group of words that evokes a picture in our mind.
19. **Imagery** : a figurative or descriptive language in a literary work **in other words**.  
The characteristic kind of mental images formed by particular individual.
20. **Symbol** : an object, person, idea, etc. used in a literary work, film, etc. to stand for or suggest something else with which it is associated either explicitly or in some more subtle way. **In other words** something that represents or stands for something else, usually by convention or association, esp. a material object used to represent something abstract.
21. **Synecdoche** : using the part for the name of the whole and vice-versa.
22. **Anthimeria** :
23. **Anticlimax** : a sudden change from a serious of subject to one that is disappointing or ludicrous.
24. **Antonomasia** : use of a title instead of name; substitution of a person's name with a common noun
25. **Antithesis** : the rhetorical contrast of ideas by means of parallel arrangements of words, clauses, or sentences
26. **Eponym** : person whose name is used as the name of a place or thing. **In other words** a word or name derived from the name of a person
27. **Erotesis ( Rhetorical Question )** : question whose answer is clear, question that was asked solely for the purpose of making an impression
28. **Litotes** : understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary
29. **Oxymoron** : a figure of speech or expressed idea in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction
30. **Pun** : the usually humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more of its meanings or the meaning of another word similar in sound.
31. **Anadiplosis** : rhetorical repetition of the last word of a clause at the beginning of next clause.
32. **Anaphora** : repetition of a word or phrase at the start of successive phrases (usually for emphasis).
33. **Figurative Language** : study of the effective use of language; art of speaking and writing effectively; oratory, study of language as a means of persuasion; use of bombastic language, use of unnecessarily florid language.

## *Elements of Literature :*

### **Definition of literature :**

Is a words written in a way to convey feelings, emotions and understanding

### **Genres (Varieties) of literature :**

Its divided into three genres :

1. **Fiction** : A story that is written about imaginary characters and events.  
Some of fiction may be true or based on real people or events, but the story is imaginary.

2. **Drama** : Is a genre of literature and can be classified further into tragedy and comedy, and tragicomedy (a mixed form combining tragedy with humour). Drama is meant to be performed by actors on stage.
3. **Poetry** : form of literature written in a rhythmical style; verse, literature written in a metrical style.

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|-------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>1. Fiction</b> | <b>Short Story</b>   | Is a work of fiction that can be read in one sitting. It usually tells about one or two major characters and one major conflict. The four elements of a short story are: character, plot, setting and theme. | <b>Myth</b>   | Is a traditional story, usually about some superman beings or unlikely event that was once widely believed to be true. Many myths try to explain natural phenomena, such as the changing of the seasons. |
|                   | <b>Fable</b>   |  | Is a brief tale in either prose or verse that teaches lessons and the characters are animals.   |  |
|                   | <b>Parable</b>   |  | Is a brief story in prose that teaches lessons especially a moral or religious lesson and the characters are human beings.  |  |
|                   | <b>Novel</b>   | Is an extended work of fiction with complex plot about the actions, feelings and motivations of a group of characters. It is much longer and more complex than a short story.                                | <b>Epistolary Novel</b>   | This type of novel narrative through letters written by one or more than one of the characters   |
|                   | <b>Picaresque Novel</b>                                    |  | Is a chronicle, usually written in the first person presenting the life of a rogue of low social class who earns his living through his wits more than his production.  |  |
|                   | <b>Detective Novel</b>                                     |  | Novels that try to detect and investigate a crime committed by a character and the detection or investigation often leads the punishment of the investigator who maybe a professional detective, a spy or a police officer. |  |
|                   | <b>Horror Novel</b>  |  | It is a novel that deals with the ghosts, spirits and the violence done by them.  |  |
|                   | <b>The Sentimental Novels</b>                              |  | Is a novel that arouses pathos or sympathy in the readers and moves to tears.   |  |
|                   | <b>Stream of consciousness Novel (Psychological Novel)</b> |  | It is a novel that is concerned with recording the multitudinous thoughts and feelings which pass through the mind of the central character.  |  |

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| <b>2. Poetry</b>      | <b>Sonnet</b>                | 14-line poem that is written in four stanzas and often follows a particular rhyme scheme. In other words it is a lyric poem of fourteen lines in expressing one single thought or feeling and love is often emphasized. | <b>The Italian (Petrarchan) Sonnet</b>  | a sonnet consisting of an octave rhyming <i>abba abba</i> and a sestet rhyming in any of various patterns (as <i>cde cde</i> or <i>cdc dcd</i> ) |
|                       |                              |   | <b>The English (Shakespearean) Sonnet</b>   | a sonnet consisting of three quatrains and a couplet with a rhyme scheme of <i>abab cdcd efef gg</i>   |
|                       | <b>Elegy</b>                 | Is a kind of poetry in which the weeps over the death of someone near and dear to him.  |   |  |
| <b>Narrative Poem</b> | A poem that narrates a story | <b>Ballad</b>   | A simple song of traditional poem especially a popular love song containing a story.  |  |
|                       |                              | <b>Epic</b>   | A long narrative poem presenting heroic character who take point in series of adventures, especially over an extended period of time. |  |
|                       |                              | <b>Romance</b>  | A poetic story that has brave character and exciting events about love.   |  |

### Extra types of literature :

- Lyric** : poem having the form and musical quality of a song; words of a song
- Satire** : is a type of writing in prose or verse that criticize a person, an idea or a thing.
- Allegory** : is a form of writing in prose or verse in which the objects, events or people are presented symbolically, so that the story conveys a meaning deeper than the actually events.

### Some elements and devices related to poetry :

- Rhyme** : Repetition of an identical or similarity accented sound or sounds in a work .

Its divided into three terms :

- Exact rhyme.
  - Eye rhyme.
  - Slant rhyme.
- Rhyme scheme** : the pattern of rhymes in a poem or verse.
  - Rhythm** : an ordered recurrent alternation of strong and weak elements in the flow of sound and silence in speech
  - Stanza** : group of lines forming one division of a poem and it divided into five terms :

- **Octave :**
  - a : a stanza of eight lines : [OTTAVA RIMA](#)
  - b : the first eight lines of an Italian sonnet
- **Sestet :** a stanza or a poem of six lines *specifically* : the last six lines of an Italian sonnet
- **Quatrain :** poem of four lines; stanza of four lines **OR** a unit or group of four lines of verse
- **Tercet :**
  - a : unit or group of three lines of verse:
  - a : one of the 3-line stanzas in terza rima
  - b : one of the two groups of three lines forming the sestet in an Italian sonnet
- **Couplet :** two successive lines of verse forming a unit marked usually by rhythmic correspondence, rhyme, or the inclusion of a self-contained utterance.

5. **Persona :** a character assumed by an author in a written work .

#### **Elements of fiction :**

1. **Theme :** is the central idea or point, usually presented in a general or universal way
2. **Plot :** is the way incidents in a story are presented and arranged to shape the story and provide it with a direction or goal
3. **Character :** is the fictional person in a story.
4. **Setting :** is the time and place in which the action occurs.
5. **Types of Theme :** 1. Dualistic 2. Single.
6. **Stages of plot and their definitions:**
  - **Exposition :** is the part of the plot that provides background information and introduces the characters, setting and conflict. The exposition usually occurs at the beginning of a literary work.
  - **Rising action :** the rising action forms the second stage in the development of the plot. During the rising action, the conflict in a story becomes obvious. Complications arise and suspense to build as the main characters struggle to resolve their problems.
  - **Climax :** is the turning point in the plot of literary work. It is at this peak of interest and intensity when the outcome of the conflict in the plot becomes clear. The climax usually results in a change in a character or a solution to a problem.
  - **Falling action :** The falling action occurs after the climax and shows the effects of the climax or turning point. As the falling action beings, the suspense is over but the results of the decision that caused the climax are yet fully worked out.
  - **Resolution :** Also known as falling action or denouement this is the climatic coming together, and ending of the plot.

#### **7. Types of characters :**

1. **Protagonist :** The central character in a story, sometimes a hero/heroine. Typically the protagonist is the character to which the reader feels the most empathy and interest.

2. **Antagonist** :The character force or group of forces that directly conflict(s) with the protagonist. An antagonist may be an individual person, a group of people or non-human forces such as poverty, injustice, fear, etc.
3. **Static Characters** : A static character does not change in the course of a story. They are not complex characters and are often stereotypes. They are not so much individuals as they are types, because these characters do not grow, also the readers understanding of the static character does not grow.
4. **Dynamic Characters** :These characters undergo some sort of significant change in the course of the story. They are psychologically complex and possess the attributes of real people. These characters are more difficult to summarize because of their complexities inconsistencies.
5. **Minor Characters** :These characters often provide a way for the protagonist character to reveal him/herself. The minor characters are not as developed or important as the main character(s), but will usually have a secondary function within the story (to illuminate the protagonist, for example).
8. **Autobiography** :Is a factual account of a person's life written by that person. It is usually written from the first person point of view and is intended to give the reader insight into the person's character, feelings and attitudes. An autobiographical essay highlights certain events in the writer's life and reflects on how these events affected him or her.
9. **Biography** : is form nonfiction in which a writer gives a factual account of someone else's life. A biography may tell about either a person's whole life or only a part of the person's life. It is written in the third person.

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| 3. Drama | Comedy       | Genre of dramatic literature that deals with the light and amusing or with the serious and profound in a light, familiar, or satirical manner.                             |
|          | Tragedy      | dramatic composition with an unhappy ending portraying a conflict between the protagonist and destiny or circumstances; literary creation in this form; disaster, calamity |
|          | Tragicomedy  | drama that's both a comedy and a tragedy, play with both happy and sad moments   |
|          | Farse        |  |
|          | One-Act Play | dramatic performance with only has one segment   |

### Basic elements of drama :

1. **Theme** : is the central idea or point, usually presented in a general or universal way
2. **Plot** : is the way incidents in a story are presented and arranged to shape the story and provide it with a direction or goal



3. **Character** : is the fictional person in a story.
4. **Setting** : is the time and place in which the action occurs.

### Some elements and devices related to drama:

1. **Act**
2. **Scene**
3. **Dialogue** : It is mean that the verbal exchange between characters in play.
4. **Stage Directions** : An instruction in a play script indicating the position or tone of an actor, or specifying sound effects, lighting, etc.
5. **Cast of Characters**
6. **Chorus** : a company of singers and dancers in Athenian drama participating in or commenting on the action *also* : a similar company in later plays
7. **Catastrophe** : 1 : the final event of the dramatic action especially of a tragedy  
2 : a momentous tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter overthrow or ruin.
8. **Crisis** : the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death.
9. **Dramatic Irony**
10. **Soliloquy /Aside/** : Dramatic monologue that gives the illusion of being a series of unspoken reflections.
11. **Monologue (Dramatic Monologue)**: a literary work (as a poem) in which a speaker's character is revealed in a monologue usually addressed to a second person
12. **Chronological Order** :the progression of events in the order in which they occur in time is called chronological order or time order. Chronological order is a common way to organize the details in a piece of writing.
13. **Flashback** :Is an interruption in the chronological order of events in a story in order to present a conversation or event that happened before the beginning of the story. This background information helps explain the present actions or attitude of a character.
14. **Foreshadowing**:. Is the technique of hinting about an event that will occur later in the story. The use of foreshadowing creates suspense.
15. **Persona** : a character assumed by an author in a written work
16. **Style** : is the particular way in which a writer expresses his/her ideas. It refers not to what is said, but rather to how it is said. Every writer has a unique style. Elements that make up a writer's style are sentence length use of descriptive language, tone of point of view, use of dialogue, use of irony and methods of characterization.
17. **Symbolism** :A symbol is a person, place or thing that represents something beyond itself. In literature objects and images are often used to symbolize abstract uses.
18. **Imagery** : Imagery refers to words and phrases that appeal to the reader's sense. Often in a startling way, most imagery appeals to the sense of sight, but imagery can appeal to other sense as well.