

# Vocabulary

## Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

- antagonist** ..... a character in conflict with the protagonist or main character
- autobiography** ..... a work of nonfiction in which the author tells his or her own life story
- biography** ..... a work of nonfiction in which the author tells the life story of another person
- character** ..... a person or creature in a literary work
- climax** ..... the most suspenseful point in a (literary) work; the point at which one of the two opposing forces must give way to the other
- comedy** ..... a type of drama or literary work which has a happy ending and often points out human weaknesses and flaws in a humorous way
- conflict** ..... a struggle between opposing forces (often characters); can be internal or external
- connotation** ..... meaning that comes from the emotions or ideas readers associate with particular words  
*Example:* The word *home* means the place where one lives, but its connotation may suggest family, love, and comfort.
- context clues** ..... surrounding words or sentences that identify the meaning of an unfamiliar word

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- drama** ..... a literary genre in the form of dialogue between characters; meant to be performed and seen rather than read
- essay** ..... a short piece of writing on a single subject that expresses a specific point of view
- exposition** ..... an introduction to the people, places, and situation important to the plot
- fiction** ..... writing based on imagination; may involve real people or events as well as invented ones
- figurative language** ..... uses words in such a way that the reader sees something special or feels a particular way; uses words to describe and create images  
*Examples:*  
simile—makes comparisons using *like* or *as*  
metaphor—describes one thing as being or *is* another  
personification—describes an animal, object or idea as having *human characteristics*
- form** ..... the way a piece of writing is organized or structured
- genres** ..... different categories into which literary works are grouped  
*Examples:* short stories, novels, poems, essays, and plays
- imagery** ..... words that appeal to one or more of the five senses and create mental sights, sounds, smells, tastes, or touches
- implied** ..... that which is indicated, suggested or understood; something not directly stated

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- literature** ..... writing in which expression and form are important features, such as poetry, fiction, biography, essays, etc.; writing that has lasting value
- metaphor** ..... a comparison between two different or unlike things without using *like* or *as* in the comparison  
*Example:* Each day *is* a blank sheet of paper.
- narrator** ..... the speaker in a literary work
- nonfiction** ..... writing based on real people, events, and facts rather than on imaginary ones
- novel** ..... a long work of fiction in which characters and conflicts can be explored in great depth
- overt** ..... that which is openly stated and observable, not hidden or secret
- personification** ..... an expression that gives a human characteristic or action to an animal, object, or idea  
*Example:* The *sun smiled* down on the hikers.
- plot** ..... the skeleton or outline of a literary work; the sequence of the main events in a work
- poetry** ..... a type of literature written in verse and expressing strong feelings
- protagonist** ..... the main character
- repetition** ..... the use of words or phrases more than once for effect or emphasis

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- resolution** ..... an end to the story, in which remaining questions are answered and results of the climax are learned
- rhyme** ..... sounds at the end of words which are repeated in the writing; used particularly in poetry  
*Examples: nap and rap*
- rhythm** ..... a pattern of beats based on stressed and unstressed syllables; used particularly in poetry
- setting** ..... the time (when) and place (where) in which the story takes place
- short story** ..... a short work of fiction usually focusing on a few characters and a single conflict
- simile** ..... a comparison between two different or unlike things using *like* or *as* in the comparison  
*Example: My mind is as sharp as a tack.*
- stanza** ..... a group of lines in a poem considered a unit
- suspense** ..... a technique used to create uncertainty so that the reader will stay interested in the story
- tempo** ..... the speed at which words are spoken
- theme** ..... the central idea or message of the literary work; often a lesson about life
- tragedy** ..... a type of drama or literary work that shows the downfall or the destruction of a noble or outstanding person