

# Literary Terms

alliteration

analogy

antagonist

archetype

characterization

climax

conflict

hyperbole

irony

metaphor

mood

novel

onomatopoeia

personification

plot

poetry

prose

protagonist

setting

short story

simile

symbolism

theme

**\*Match these terms with their definitions on the following pages. Write the words in the blanks.**

## Glossary of Literary Terms

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ – an extended prose (non/fiction) which represents characters in a significant action in their world
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ – a prose tale too short to be published on its own, normally concentrating on a single event with only one or two characters
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ – an observation of life which serves as the controlling idea in a literary work
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ – when a familiar object is used to represent the unfamiliar
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ – the pattern of cause and effect events which must be complete by the end of the literary work
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ – the creation of believable personalities using techniques such as:
  1. the character's appearance
  2. the character's actions or thoughts / conversations
  3. the aspects of setting which influence the character
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ – a struggle between two opposing forces, namely the following:
  1. person vs. person
  2. person vs. nature
  3. person vs. society
  4. person vs. fate
  5. person vs. self
  6. person vs. supernatural
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ – the environment of a story including
  - 1) time
  - 2) place
  - 3) mood / atmosphere
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ – written language not arranged in poetic metre
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ – a form of rhythmic language which is written to be more concentrated than prose or ordinary speech

- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ – a comparison between two unlike things using *like* or *as* to make the comparison
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ – an implied comparison between two unlike things that speaks of one thing as if it were the other eg. a heart of stone
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_ – a state of mind or feeling which sets the tone of a literary work eg. a poem about being alone on a cold, rainy day will evoke loneliness
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_ – a figure of speech by which animals, abstract ideas, or inanimate things are referred to as if they were human eg. weeping willow
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_ – the force opposing the hero (the villain)
- 16) \_\_\_\_\_ – the main character in a play or written work (the hero)
- 17) \_\_\_\_\_ – a recurring symbol, theme, setting or character-type, for example:
1. a rose = beauty, love
  2. the seasons = the life cycle
  3. certain characters eg. evil stepmother, handsome prince
- 18) \_\_\_\_\_ – the illustration of an idea by means of a more familiar idea eg. learning how to ride a bike is **analogous** to a bird learning how to fly
- 19) \_\_\_\_\_ – any moment of great intensity in a literary work, especially in drama
- 20) \_\_\_\_\_ – when an intended meaning is the opposite, or when an outcome is contrary to what is expected eg. a cardiologist (heart surgeon) dies of a heart attack
- 21) \_\_\_\_\_ – exaggeration for the sake of emphasis in a figure of speech not meant literally eg. I've been waiting here for ages.
- 22) \_\_\_\_\_ – the repetition of the same initial sounds of words eg. the slimy salamander slithered and slid stealthily and steadily south.
- 23) \_\_\_\_\_ – echoism; descriptive word that actually sounds like the action eg. tweet, purr, hiss