**Exposition**: The essential background information at the beginning of a literary work: “A long time ago in a galaxy far away, far away…”

**Rising action**: The development of conflict and complications in a literary work

**Climax:** The turning point in a literary work

**Falling action**: The turning point in a literary work

**Resolution/Denouement**: End of a literary work when loose ends are tied up and questions are answered

**Alliteration**: Repetition of the initial consonant sounds of words: “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers”

**Allusion**: A reference to something well-known that exists outside the literary work “This place is like a Garden of Eden.”

**Antagonists**: Character that is the source of conflict in a literary work

**Aside:** A dramatic device in which a character makes a short speech intended for the audience but not heard by the other characters on stage

**Assonance:** repetition of vowel sounds followed by different consonant sounds: “Anna’s apples,” “the pond is long gone: Mr. Hyde is the antagonist for Dr. Jeckyll.

**Characterization**: The manner in which an author develops characters and their personalities

**Conflict:** Struggle between two or more opposing forces (person vs. Person; nature; society; self; fate/God

**Dialogue:** Direct speech between characters in a literary work

**Figurative Language**: Language that represents one thing in terms of something dissimilar (non-literal language). Includes simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol

**Flashback**: The method of returning to an earlier point in time for the purpose of making the present clearer

**Foreshadowing**: Hint of what is to come in a literary work

**Genre**: Type or category to which a literary work belongs

**Hyperbole:** Extreme exaggeration to add meaning “You could have knocked me over with a feather”

**Imagery:** Language that appeals to the five senses “The lake was left shivering by the touch of morning wind”

**Irony:** Dramatic… when the reader and the audience knows something a character does not

Situational… when there is a disparity between what is expected and what actually occurs

Verbal… when the speaker says one thing but means the opposite

**Metaphor:** An implied comparison between dissimilar objects: “she is the light of my life”

**Motif:** A recurring feature of a literary work that is related to the theme

**Onomatopoeia:** Use of a word whose sound imitates its meaning: “hiss”

**Oxymoron**: Phrase that consists of two words that are contradictory: “living dead”.

**Personification:** Figure of speech in which non-human things are given human characteristics “my computer throws a fit every time I try to use it”

**Plot:** The sequence of events in a literary work

**Point of View**: The vantage point or perspective from which a literary work is told

**Protagonist:** The main character in a literary work

**Simile:** A direct comparison of dissimilar objects, usually using like or as: “I wandered lonely as a cloud”

**Soliloquy**: A dramatic device in which a character is alone and speaks his or her thoughts aloud

**Speakers:** Voice in a poem; the person or thing that is speaking

**Stereotype/Archetype**: Standardized, conventional ideas about characters, plots and settings: The hero, the mother figure

**Symbol/symbolism**: One thing (object, person, place) used to represent something else: ”All the world’s a stage”.

**Theme**: The underlying main idea of a literary work. Theme differs from the subject of a literary work in that it involves a statement or opinion about the subject.

**Tone:** The author’s attitude toward the subject of a work.