

# The ESL Literature Project

**Literary Devices** are structures in stories writers use to help readers appreciate, interpret, and analyze their work. When used effectively, they help speakers understand, communicate, and explain their life and feelings to others in sophisticated and meaningful ways.

- 1. Literature:** Literature is a work of written art.
- 2. Literary Term:** Literary terms are words used to analyze and understand the meaning of literature.
- 3. Author:** An author is the writer of a story or article.
- 4. Title:** The title is the name of a book or story.
- 5. Fiction & Nonfiction:** Fiction is a non-real story that comes from the author's imagination. Nonfiction is writing that is real. It comes from real people with real life stories and experiences.
- 6. Character:** A character is a person, animal, or thing in a story that does an action.
- 7. Protagonist & Antagonist:** A protagonist is the main character in a story. The antagonist is the person who opposes or fights the protagonist.
- 8. Conflict:** Conflict is the problem in the story.
- 9. Internal Conflict:** Internal conflict is a problem inside the mind of the protagonist.
- 10. External Conflict:** External conflict is a problem outside the protagonist.
- 11. Plot:** Plot is the series of events in a story from start to finish.
- 12. Setting:** The setting is when and where the story takes place.
- 13. Rising Action:** Rising action is where the conflict develops and the characters change.
- 14. Climax:** Climax is the most intense, exciting, and important point in a story.
- 15. Falling Action:** Falling action is a moment of relief in the story after the intense climax and before the resolution.

- 16.Resolution:** Resolution is where the action of the story ends.
- 17.Plot Map:** A plot map is a diagram students use to identify the important moments of a story.
- 18.Subject:** A subject is a one-word description of a story.
- 19.Theme:** A theme is what the subject of the story teaches or reveals.
- 20.Plot Summary:** A plot summary is a retelling of the story using specific literary devices.
- 21. Genre:** Genre is different classification or types of stories.
- 22.Nursery Rhyme:** Nursery rhymes are simple songs to teach children language.
- 23.Fable:** Fables are stories that teach a moral.
- 24.Fairy Tale:** Fairy tales are magical stories with happy endings.
- 25.Folklore:** Folklore is stories based on local customs and beliefs.
- 26.Myth:** Myths are old stories that try to explain something in the ancient world.
- 27.Epic:** An epic is a long poem about a heroic adventure.
- 28.Legend  
& Tall Tale:** Legends are fantastic stories that are based on real historic events and people. Tall Tales are similar to legends but the facts of the story are purposefully stretched to the impossible.
- 29.Adventure:** Adventure stories are tales of danger, risk, and excitement.
- 30.Fantasy:** Fantasy stories are imaginary tales that has characters, settings, and events that are impossible in the real world.
- 31.Mystery:** A mystery is a story that centers around a problem that must be solved.
- 32.Science Fiction:** Science fiction are stories based on imagined futures and technology advances.
- 33.Romance:** Romance is a story that centers around a love relationship.

- 34.Horror:** Horror stories are tales of primal instinct and fear.
- 35.Thriller:** Thrillers are stories of tension and excitement that stimulate the reader's mood.
- 36.Anime:** Anime is a style of Japanese animation aimed at adults and children.
- 37.Autobiography & Biography:** An autobiography is a book about the life of a person written by that person. A biography is a book about the life of a person written by someone else.
- 38.Historical Fiction:** Historical fiction is a story with fictional characters set in real time history and events.
- 39.Graphic Novel:** Graphic novels are illustrated books.
- 40.Dystopian:** Dystopian novels examine imagined futures and potential conflicts of the human race.
- 41. Literary Analysis:** Literary analysis is the deep study, understanding, and communication of how stories communicate to a reader.
- 42.Foreshadowing:** Foreshadowing is a hint of a future event in the story.
- 43.Symbolism:** Symbolism is a person, place, or thing in the story that represents a subject or a theme.
- 44.Suspense:** Suspense is that feeling in the story when you don't know what will happen next.
- 45.Mood:** Mood is the feeling or tone of a story that is created by the author's descriptions.
- 46.Narrator & P.O.V.:** The narrator is the person telling the story. Point of View is the narrator's position on how they observe and tell a story.
- 47.Author's Purpose:** Author's purpose is how and why the author is telling you the story.
- 48.Allusion:** Allusion is a reference to a famous literary work.
- 49.Irony:** Irony is the opposite of what is expected.

**50.3 Kinds of Irony:** The three kinds of irony are verbal, situational, and dramatic.

**51. Drama:** Drama is an exciting, emotional, and unexpected story performed on stage for an audience.

**52. Hero:** A hero is the classic protagonist in a work of literature.

**53. Tragedy:** A tragedy is a sad drama where the antagonist destroys the protagonist.

**54. Comedy:** Comedy is a funny story where the protagonist defeats the antagonist.

**55. Tragic Hero:** A tragic hero is a literary character who makes a judgement error that leads to their own destruction.

**56. Tragic Fault:** A tragic flaw is the secret weakness of a character that brings about their downfall.

**57. Hero's Journey:** A hero's journey is a circular path of discovery where a young hero realizes their true destiny of greatness.

**58. Allegory:** An allegory is a story with a hidden religious, moral, or political meaning.

**59. Parody:** Parody is the imitation of a particular story or picture for comic effect.

**60. Satire:** Satire is the use of humor, irony, exaggeration or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vice.

**61. Poetry:** Poetry is literary that expresses feelings and ideas by use of distinct style and rhythm.

**62. Rhythm & Rhyme:** Rhythm is a strong, regular beat in poetry. Rhyme is words that end in the same sound.

**63. Meter:** Meter is the number of stressed and unstressed syllables or beats in a line of poetry.

**64. Imagery:** Imagery is visual symbolism and descriptive pictures with writing.

**65. Repetition:** Repetition is the repeating of words or phrases to make an idea more clear or impact meaning.

**66. Stanza:** Stanza is a group of lines forming the basic metrical unit in a poem.

- 67. Figurative Language:** Figurative language are words and expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation.
- 68. Simile & Metaphor:** Metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things to make an object become more vivid and special. A simile is a comparison using ‘like’ or ‘as.’
- 69. Personification:** Personification is the giving and description of human feelings to things, animals, or objects.
- 70. Voice:** Voice in poetry is the individual writing style of an author.
- 71. Grammar:** Grammar is the whole system and structure of a language, the rules governing the words in any given natural order.
- 72. Context Clues:** Context clues are hints that an author gives to help define a difficult or unusual word.
- 73. Paragraphs:** A paragraph is a group of organized sentences working together on a single topic.
- 74. Transition Words:** Transition words are specific words inserted in paragraphs linking sentences and ideas smoothly.
- 75. Sequencing:** Sequence words organized and frame events, steps in a process, and order of importance.
- 76. Generalizing:** A generalization is to make a broad statement by inferring from specific information.
- 77. Analogies:** Analogies are comparisons between two things to explain or clarify.
- 78. Compare & Contrast:** To compare means to tell how things are similar, to contrast means to tell how things are different.
- 79. Classify & Categorize:** To classify means to organize things into related groups that have something in common, to categorize means to give these groups names based on how they are alike.
- 80. Cause & Effect:** Cause is the reason why something happens, effect is the result of what happened.

- 81.Logic:** Logic is the study of valid reasoning.
- 82.Main Idea:** A main idea is the point of the paragraph.
- 83.Higher-Order Thinking:** Higher-Order Thinking is specific leveled reading questions to demonstrate understanding of a topic.
- 84.Predicting & Concluding:** To predict means to estimate or guess something will happen based on information. To conclude means to arrive at a judgement by reasoning.
- 85.Bloom's Taxonomy:** Bloom's Taxonomy is a guide to educational learning objectives.
- 86.Identifying Details:** Details are facts, description, and events in a specific writing that support a main idea.
- 87.Using Quotes:** A quote is a word, sentence, or passage either written or spoken that is used by a second person to support an idea.
- 88.Summarize & Paraphrase:** A summary is a brief statement or account of a main point. A paraphrase is rewording of something written or spoken.
- 89.Fact & Opinion:** A fact is a statement that can be proven true or false. An opinion is an expression of a person's feeling that cannot be proven.
- 90.Citing Sources:** Citing sources means to give credit to other authors and researchers when using their words and ideas in your own work.
- 91.Rhetoric:** Rhetoric is a technique of using written or spoken language to inform, motivate, or persuade an audience.
- 92.Persuasion:** Persuasion is the act of influencing an audience.
- 93.7 Liberal Arts:** The Seven Liberal Arts are grammar, rhetoric, logic, geometry, arithmetic. Music, and astronomy.
- 94.Alliteration & Assonance:** Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds. Assonance is a repetition of vowel sounds.

**95. Onomatopoeia  
& Oxymoron:**

Onomatopoeia is the creation of a word from the sound it makes.  
Oxymoron is a figure of speech where two contradictory terms appear in conjunction.

**96. Idioms:**

Idioms are groups of words whose cultural meaning are different from their usual meaning.

**97. Hyperbole:**

Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration to describe something for rhetorical and poetic effect.

**98. Expletive**

**UnderStatement:** An expletive is an interjectory word or expression. An understatement is to make something appear less important or serious.

**99. Rhetorical  
Questions:**

A rhetorical question is a question asked without expecting an answer but to prove a point.

**100.**

**Rhetorical  
Device:**

A rhetorical device is a use of language that is intended to have an effect on an audience.