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| alliteration | Definition: when consonant sounds are repeated at the beginning of words.  Example: |
| allusion | Definition: a brief reference to a person, event, or place, real or fictitious, or to a work of art.  Example: |
| antagonist | Definition: a character or thing in a story or play who opposes the main character (protagonist).  Example: |
| climax | Definition: the decisive point in a story or play when the central problem of the plot must be resolved one way or another.  Example: |
| conflict | Definition: struggle between two opposing forces. There are two basic kinds of conflict. (1) External: a person against another person; a person against nature; a person against society; (2) Internal: two elements within a person struggling for mastery.  Example: |
| dialogue | Definition: conversation between two or more people in a literary work.  Example: |
| diction | Definition: word choice  Example: |
| falling action | Definition: the resolution of a dramatic plot, which takes place after the climax.  Example: |
| flashback | Definition: interruption of a narrative to show events that happened before that particular point in time.  Example: |
| foreshadowing | Definition: a hint given to the reader of what is to come.  Example: |
| hyperbole | Definition: a figure of speech involving great exaggeration  Example: |
| imagery | Definition: figurative language used to describe objects, actions and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our 5 senses.  Example: |
| irony | Definition: the term used to describe a contrast between what is expected, or what appears to be, and what really is. There are three types of irony (1) Verbal irony, the actual meaning of a statement is different from what the statement literally says; (2) Situational irony refers to an occurrence that is contrary to what is expected; (3) Dramatic irony refers to a situation in which events or facts not known to a character on stage or in a fictional work are known to the audience or reader.  Examples:  Verbal irony –  Situational irony –  Dramatic irony – |
| metaphor | Definition: metaphor is an implicit comparison – a metaphor says something is something else.  Example: |
| mood | Definition: the overall atmosphere or prevailing feeling within a work of art.  Example: |
| onomatopoeia | Definition: when words sound like the things they represent.  Example: |
| oxymoron | Definition: when contradictory terms/words are combined  Example: |
| paradox | Definition: a statement, person or situation that seems at first to be self-contradictory but that has a valid meaning.  Example: |
| personification | Definition: personification is when you give life to an inanimate object.  Example: |
| protagonist | Definition: the leading character in a literary work.  Example: |
| repetition | Definition: repetition is a strategy for producing emphasis, clarity, amplification, or emotional effect.  Example: |
| resolution | Definition: the part of the plot following the climax and falling action in which the complications of the plot are resolved or settled.  Example: |
| rising action | Definition: the part of a dramatic plot that leads up to the climax.  Example: |
| simile | Definition: simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*  Example: |
| symbol | Definition: a person, place, event, or object that has meaning in itself but also suggests other meanings as well.  Example: |
| theme | Definition: an underlying meaning of literary work. A single work may have several themes. A theme is often implied.  Example: |
| tone | Definition: the author’s attitude toward the subject of his or her literary work and toward the reader.  Example: |