

Limehurst Academy | English Department Terminology Glossary

- **Abstract noun:** a noun denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object.
- **Acronym:** an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word.
- **Adjective:** a word added to a noun to describe it or change its meaning.
- **Adverb:** a word used with a verb.
- **Allegory:** a story which can be interpreted to have a hidden meaning usually moral or political.
- **Alliteration:** a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series. Owen: 'the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle'.
- **Allusion:** an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference.
- **Ambiguity:** where a word or phrase has two or more possible meanings.
- **Analysis:** is 'examine in detail': 'break down in order to bring out the essential elements and/ or structure'. Here both, of course. In OFQUAL's words 'make linkages between writing and its results that are complex and detailed.'
- **Antithesis:** opposition; contrast: the antithesis of right and wrong. The direct opposite (usually followed by of or to): her behaviour was the very antithesis of cowardly. The placing of a sentence or one of its parts against another to which it is opposed for a balanced contrast of ideas, as in "Give me liberty or give me death."
- **Anadiplosis:** Repetition of the last word in a line or clause.
- **Anagnorisis:** is a moment in a play or other work when a character makes a critical discovery.
- **Anaphora:** Repetition of words at the start of clauses or verses.
- **Annotate:** write notes on a text and highlight details.
- **Anthropomorphism:** the attribution of human characteristics or behaviour to a god, animal, or object.
- **Antistasis:** Repetition of words or phrases in opposite sense.
- **Apt:** appropriate.
- **Auditory imagery:** imagery of sound and sound words (onomatopoeia).
- **Aside:** a remark or passage in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but is supposed to be unheard by the other characters in the play.
- **Assonance:** takes place when two or more words close to one another repeat the same vowel sound but start with different consonant sounds.
- **Assured:** confident, convinced.
- **Atmosphere:** feelings created by the description of setting.
- **Balanced:** both sides of a question/ issue/ statement have been considered in something approaching equal measure: often found in comments on 'compare and contrast' or 'how far' tasks.
- **Ballad:** a form of poetry that tells a story and can often be set to music.

- **Bathos:** a ludicrous descent from the exalted or lofty to the commonplace; anticlimax. Waugh: 'Sword of Honour' sergeant to senior officer: 'quite frankly sir it's time you shut your bloody trap'. insincere pathos; sentimentality; mawkishness.
- **Bildungsroman:** a novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education.
- **Blank verse:** poetry written in iambic pentameter that doesn't rhyme.
- **Caesura:** a pause in a line for effect.
- **Caricature:** a picture, description, or imitation of a person in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect.
- **Catalyst:** a person or thing that precipitates an event.
- **Characterisation:** the ways in which different people, places and things are described and developed.
- **Chorus:** non-individualised group of performers in the plays of classical Greece, who comment with a collective voice on the dramatic action.
- **Chronological:** told in the order that it happens.
- **Clarify:** make or become clearer to see or easier to understand.
- **Cliché:** a very overused or unoriginal phrase.
- **Climax:** event or point of greatest intensity or interest.
- **Closure:** closing, ending: refers to the ways writers deal with the final moments of their texts.
- **Cohesion:** what glues a united, whole text together.
- **Colloquial:** sounding like everyday spoken language.
- **Comic relief:** humorous content in a dramatic or literary work intended to offset more serious episodes.
- **Comment:** describe and make some straightforward judgements about: 'give a view of' what has been read and how it works in the light of the task and, critically, support what is said with reference to the text. In its simplest form: 'say something about'.
- **Conjunction:** word that links words, phrases and clauses.
- **Connective:** a word that joins words or sentences.
- **Consonance:** repetition of a consonant sound in nearby words.
- **Conceptual:** ideas that can be read between the lines, infer what is implied. A concept is defined as a 'generalisation or abstraction from experience based on or relating to ideas.' Ideas are 'plans or schemes formed by thinking'.
- **Connections:** similarities.
- **Connotations:** ideas or feelings evoked by a word because of its interpretations
- **Considered response and consider(ed):** 'contemplate mentally, esp. in order to reach a conclusion'; 'look attentively at. to examine the merits of'.
- **Consistent:** 'compatible, in harmony with'.
- **Context:** both in its generally understood sense: 'parts that precede and follow a word or passage and fix its precise meaning' in other words its place in the scheme of things: and in the sense it has come to have in literary rubrics, 'circumstances'. As described here by 'social, cultural, historical'.

- **Contrast:** when two things are described in a way which emphasises how different they are
- **Conventions:** a way in which something is usually done.
- **Conveyed:** how something is communicated.
- **Critical:** or in this context the work of a critic: 'censure, review, judge... merit'. The suggestion is that candidates may find things to criticise as poor/inadequate/could have been better done, as well as praise as merit worthy. Essential, therefore to see that these judgements are substantiated.
- **Declarative:** a statement in the form of a declaration
- **Denotation:** the literal or primary meaning of a word, in contrast to the feelings or ideas that the word suggests.
- **Detachment:** this is a challenging requirement: it suggests both engagement and involvement but also taking an overview from a critical distance as well as textual references that are apt, convincing and persuasive. Personal opinions that are unconsidered and unsupported are not judgements. Detailed work is all of the high quality suggested here and fully, aptly supported. Well differentiated, penetrating.
- **Developed:** (of a response, essay etc.) continued, followed up, and expanded.
- **Dichotomy:** a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different.
- **Diacope:** Repetition of words broken by some other words.
- **Dialect:** the form of English used in a particular place.
- **Direct speech:** the actual words that are said by someone.
- **Discourse markers:** A discourse marker is a word or phrase that is relatively syntax-independent and does not change the meaning of the sentence, and is somewhat empty. Examples of discourse markers include the particles "oh", "well", "now", "then", "you know", and "I mean", and the discourse connectives "so", "because", "and", "but", and "or".
- **Discuss:** offer a considered and balanced response that includes a range of arguments factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.
- **Dissonance:** inharmonious or harsh sound; discord; cacophony. Blake, 'The `Garden of Love'.
And Priests in black gowns, were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars, my joys & desires.
- **Dramatic monologue:** a form of poetry that uses the assumed voice of a single speaker who is not the poet to address an implied audience.
- **Echo:** repetition of sound; close imitation, reinforce, support, imitate.
- **Ellipsis:** the omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues.
- **Emotive:** arousing feeling, exciting emotion (possibly at the expense of/ instead of taking a logical route, response).
- **Empathise, empathy:** power of identifying oneself with the thoughts and feelings of another.
- **End-stopping:** finishing a line of poetry with the end of a phrase or sentence.

- **Enigmatic:** puzzling, riddling, ambiguous: a paradox.
- **Enjambment:** when a sentence or phrase runs over from one line or stanza to the next.
- **Establish:** set up, argue successfully.
- **Euphemism:** an indirect term for something upsetting or offensive.
- **Evaluation, evaluate:** 'appraisal, assessment'. It certainly includes 'making judgements about'.
- **Evidence:** both openly stated factual information and what is implied. What a passage says about someone or something and how it is said.
- **Exclamation:** a sentence that expresses an emotion.
- **Explain:** 'make clear or intelligible/ give meaning of/ make known in detail': or slightly more mundanely 'show how it works': starting to analyse with apt supporting examples.
- **Explicit:** openly, expressly stated, stated in detail, reading along the lines.
- **Explores:** 'travel extensively in order to learn or discover'; 'inquire into'. The 'travel' of course, is metaphorical here: we often speak of reading as a 'voyage of discovery'. It is the candidate's response to this voyage through the texts supported by relevant detail that is wanted in comparative format. The strong suggestion is that candidates can see more than one (or two) ideas and perspectives.
- **Exposition:** information about the setting, characters' backstories, prior plot events, historical context, etc.
- **Fatal flaw:** are mental or physical weaknesses that demigods, humans, and immortals possess. These flaws can often cause the downfall of the being, but are particularly dangerous to demigods. In Greek plays, they are often referred to as "Tragic Flaws".
- **First person:** when somebody writes about themselves or their group using pronouns
- **Form:** the shape and arrangement of parts, usually but not necessarily of a poem, e.g. sonnet, ode, epic etc.
- **Foreshadowing:** a warning indication of what is to come. a dramatic device in which an important plot-point is mentioned early in the story and will return in a more significant way
- **Free verse:** poetry that doesn't rhyme and has no regular rhythm
- **Genre:** specific type/ kind of literature: gothic novel, fantasy adventure, science fiction story etc.
- **Grammar, grammatical:** the rules governing the relations between words; according to the rules of grammar.
- **Half rhyme:** words that have similar but not identical end sounds.
- **Hubris:** excessive pride or self-confidence.
- **Hyperbole:** obvious and intentional exaggeration; extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally, as "to wait an eternity."
- **Iambic pentameter:** poetry with a meter of 8 syllables, five of them stressed and 5 unstressed. The stress falls on every second syllable.
- **Iambic tetrameter:** poetry with a meter of 10 syllables, 4 of them stressed and 4 unstressed. The stress falls on every second syllable.
- **Identify:** retrieve data or facts: show what is explicit and/ or implicit as directed by the task.

- **Idiolect:** the speech habits peculiar to a particular person.
- **Imagery:** language that creates a picture in your mind. It includes metaphors, similes and personification.
- **Imbalanced:** more on one text/ issue/ idea etc. than another.
- **impact:** (noun) force, strong effect or influence.
- **Imperative:** a command.
- **Implicit:** below the surface, implied rather than stated directly.
- **Inference:** explanation of what you have implied.
- **Influence:** (verb) have a strong effect on; capacity to be a compelling force on opinions.
- **Integrated:** 'combine into a whole' another version of 'synthesise'.
- **Internal rhyme:** when 2 words in the same line rhyme.
- **Intentions:** the aims and objectives: of a writer or a candidate in a response to a task.
- **Interpret:** read between the lines and make simple inferences, explain what is happening; show what is implied; explain, bring out the meaning of: 'infer'.
- **Interwoven:** comparison again, the emphasis on a detailed account of the texts which effectively compares and contrasts throughout; intimately blended.
- **irony:** dissimulation, sarcasm, understatement the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning: the irony of her reply, "How nice!" when I said I had to work all weekend. A technique of indicating, as through character or plot development, an intention or attitude opposite to that which is actually or ostensibly stated. A manner of organizing a work (especially in contemporary writing) so as to give full expression to contradictory or complementary impulses, attitudes, etc., especially as a means of indicating detachment from a subject, theme, or emotion.
- **Justify:** back up a point with evidence.
- **Juxtaposition:** 2 ideas, events, characters or descriptions close to each other to encourage the reader to contrast them.
- **Knowledge:** what is known, range of information.
- **Lexical field:** words linked to other words.
- **Limited:** little or nothing given in response.
- **Link/s:** the ways different segments of a text are connected, joined together.
- **Literal:** surface, basic, surface meaning.
- **Litotes:** A deliberate understatement for effect; the opposite of hyperbole. For example, a good idea may be described as "not half bad," or a difficult task considered "no small feat."
- **Melodrama:** a sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotion.
- **Metaphor:** a way of describing something by saying that it is something else.
- **Meter:** the rhythmical pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in verse.
- **Metonymy:** A figure of speech in which a related term is substituted for the word itself. Often the substitution is based on a material, causal, or conceptual relation between things. For example, the British monarchy is often referred to as 'the Crown'. In the phrase "lend me your

ears,” “ears” is substituted for “attention.” “O, for a draught of vintage!” exclaims the speaker in John Keats’s Ode to Nightingale, with “vintage” understood to mean “wine.”

- **Mnemonics:** ‘aforest’ for instance, which can often lead to a distorted or partial view of task and text.
- **Monologue:** a long speech given by one person as opposed to dialogue.
- **Monosyllabic:** consisting of one syllable.
- **Mood:** the feel or atmosphere.
- **Motif:** an element, idea or theme that is repeated throughout.
- **Narrative:** writing that tells a story.
- **Narrator:** the voice speaking the words.
- **Octet:** a group of eight people or things.
- **Omniscient narrator:** talking in the third person ‘outside’ the action. They are ‘all seeing’ and have access to all thoughts and feelings.
- **Onomatopoeia:** a word that sounds like the thing its describing.
- **Oxymoron:** a phrase which appears to have contradicted itself.
- **Paradox:** a person or thing that combines contradictory features or qualities.
- **Parenthesis:** word or clause in a sentence inserted as an explanation or an afterthought or rider which is grammatically complete without it and is usually marked off by brackets, dashes or commas. Not to be overused for effect in writing.
- **Pathetic fallacy:** The assignment of human feelings to inanimate objects, as coined by the Victorian literary critic John Ruskin. For him, a poet’s tendency to project his or her emotions outward onto the workings of the natural world was a kind of false vision. Today the term is used more neutrally, and the phenomenon is usually accepted as an integral part of the poet’s craft. It is related to personification and anthropomorphism, but emphasizes the relationship between the poet’s emotional state and what he or she sees in the object or objects.
- **Pathos:** writing (or any use of language) that arouses pity or sadness.
- **Perceptive:** understanding of similarities.....quick to comprehend’: more simply ‘shows good/deep/clear understanding’.
- **Persona:** literally, an actor’s mask: in this context, taking the role, place, personality of: not being simply one’s self.
- **Personification:** describing a non-living thing as if it has human thoughts and feelings, or behaves in a human way.
- **Perspectives:** the writer’s viewpoint, or way of looking at the material s/he is describing. It is about the relationship between the writer, the described event and their craft.
- **Petrarchan sonnet:** a form of sonnet in which the first 8 lines have a regular ABBA rhyme and introduce a problem, while the final 6 lines have a different rhyme scheme and solve the problem.
- **Phrase:** group of words forming a conceptual unit equivalent to a noun, adjective or adverb but not forming a complete sentence.
- **Plosive:** a short burst of sound made when you say a word containing the letters b,d,g,k,p,or t.

- **Prose:** written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure.
- **Protagonist:** the central character.
- **Purpose:** a reason for the communication.
- **Quatrain:** a 4 line stanza refrain a line or stanza in a poem that is repeated
- **Register:** one of the many styles or varieties of language determined by such factors as social occasion, purpose, and audience. Also called stylistic variation. More generally, register is used to indicate degrees of formality in language use. The different registers or language styles that we use are sometimes called codes.
- **Reinforce:** make stronger: often used with impact and effect.
- **Repertoire:** range of regularly used techniques, styles.
- **Repetition:** as a rhetorical device, it could be a word, a phrase or a full sentence or a poetical line repeated to emphasize its significance in the entire text. Repetition is not distinguished solely as a figure of speech but more as a rhetorical device. The following examples of repetition are classified according to the different types of repetition used both in literature and in daily conversations.
- **Response:** the written (or spoken) answer to a specific question or task.
- **Rhetoric:** (in writing or speech) the undue use of exaggeration or display; bombast. The art or science of all specialized literary uses of language in prose or verse, including the figures of speech. The study of the effective use of language. The ability to use language effectively. the art of making persuasive speeches; oratory. (in classical oratory) The art of influencing the thought and conduct of an audience.
- **Rhetorical question:** a question to which the answer is already known; which is asked for a particular effect.
- **Rhyme:** identity in sound of some part, especially the end, of words or lines of verse. a word agreeing with another in terminal sound: find is a rhyme for mind and womankind; verse or poetry having correspondence in the terminal sounds of the lines. A poem or piece of verse having such correspondence.
- **Rhyming couplet:** a pair of rhyming lines that are next to each other
- **Rhythm:** a pattern of sounds created by the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables.
- **Rule of three/ tricolon:** clustering a repetition of the same concept, idea, statement, vocabulary in a set of three for effect.
- **Sarcasm:** a form of irony, usually crude; remarks that mean the opposite of what they say, made to criticise someone or something in a way that is amusing to others but annoying and offensive to the person criticised.
- **Second person:** when the narrator talks directly to another person.
- **Select:** choose (usually what is apt, relevant enlightening) detail from texts, a range of vocabulary to show understanding and flair in both reading and writing.
- **Semantic field:** a selection of words that are linked to a similar idea.
- **Sestet:** the last six lines of a sonnet.
- **Setting:** the place, time, class, context etc. in which a piece of writing takes place.

- **Sibilance:** repetition of 's' sound.
- **Simile:** an expression including the words 'like' or 'as' to compare one thing with another.
- **Soliloquy:** an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.
- **Sonnet:** the form of a poem with 14 lines that clearly follow a clear rhyme scheme. They are often themed around love poetry.
- **Stanza:** a group of lines in a poem - verses
- **Stereotype:** a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.
- **Structure:** the shape, sequence and linking of a piece of writing (as opposed to 'form' of a poem). Critically, in OFQUAL's words 'it is very difficult to make absolute distinctions between language and structure - though the former may be more about words and phrases; the latter more about sentences, punctuation and paragraphs. We would add that the latter is often less well represented than the former and should include opening, development and closure.
- **Summation:** concluding summing up, bringing to a closure.
- **Surface features:** what is literally given in a piece of text without the need for inference or suggestion or reading between the lines.
- **Syllable:** a single unit of sound within a word.
- **Symbol:** anything (but in this case a word or phrase) used to represent something else, for example 'Queen Victoria was the symbol of the British Empire'.
- **Symbolism:** when an object stands for something else.
- **Synecdoche:** a word or phrase in which a part of something is used to refer to the whole of it, e.g. 'a pair of hands' for a worker; 'the law' for a police officer.
- **Synonym:** a word or phrases that means the same as another word.
- **Syntax:** the arrangement of words in a sentence or phrase so they make sense
- **Synthesise:** appropriate ideas and evidence from both texts...combine elements into a whole' or, as above 'locate and reorganise'.
- **Terminology:** the subject of this glossary: special words or expressions used in relation (here to literary understanding and commentary) to a particular subject.
- **Themes:** main ideas concepts and concerns.
- **Third person:** when a writer writes about a character who isn't the speaker.
- **Tone:** quality, sound of voice that expresses the speaker's feelings to either or both what and who is being addressed; mood of something. A key element of responding to texts.
- **Transactional:** vending/ giving information about.
- **Tricolon:** groups of 3 related words or phrases placed closely together.
- **Valid:** acceptable because based on what is true and/ or reasonable (and 'validity'; 'validate).
- **Villanelle:** a pastoral or lyrical poem of nineteen lines, with only two rhymes throughout, and some lines repeated.
- **Voice:** the personality narrating a poem.
- **Volta:** a turning point in the poem, where the argument or tone dramatically changes.