**Eighth Grade ELA Literary Terms**

**Term Definition Example**

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| 1.) allusion | An explicit or implicit reference, in a work of literature,to a person, place, or event, or to another literary work or passage |  |
| 2.) antagonist | Character or force in direct conflict with the protagonist |  |
| 3.) author's purpose | The author's reason for creating a work; to persuade, inform, explain, entertain or reveal an important truth (think P.I.E.E.) |  |
| 4.) characters- dynamic or round/static or flat | dynamic/round is a major character in a work of fiction who encounters conflict and is changed by ittend to be fully developed; static/flat- minor characters in a work of fiction who do not undergo substantial change or growth in course of the story |  |
| 5.) climax/turning point | High point of interest or suspense and action in the story; the point that is most critical to the main character or conflict of the story |  |
| 6.) connotation | The emotional association suggested by the primary meaning of a word, which affects its interpretations, things suggested by a word apart from the thing it explicitly names or describes |  |
| 7.) denotation | The objective meaning of a word independent of other associations the word calls to mind |  |
| 8.) dialect | Regional differences in oral speech |  |
| 9.) epilogue | An afterward or concluding section usually about the future of the characters |  |
| 10.) exposition | The first part of a plot that explains, informs, or presents information; where the author establishes the setting, introduces the main characters and the basic situation |  |
| 11.) external conflict | The main character struggles with another person or with an outside force (man vs man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, man vs fate) |  |
| 12.) falling action | Part of the story which follows the climax and leads to the resolution |  |
| 13.) flashback | A section of the story that interrupts the sequence of events to relate an event from an earlier time; used to give additional information to the reader to help him/her understand the story better |  |
| 14.) foreshadowing | The writer's hints and clues that suggests events that may still occur |  |
| 15.) inference | To "take out of" or to draw a conclusion based on that which is implied; a conclusion or opinion that draws on known facts, evidence, or intuition to fill in missing information |  |
| 16.) inner voice | What you say or think to yourself as you internally interpret the story or play |  |
| 17.) internal conflict | A self-imposed challenge; the main character struggles with opposing ideas or feelings within his or her own mind; usually involves decision making (man vs. himself) |  |
| 18.) jargon | A language/ words/ expressions specific to a specific group |  |
| 19.) metacognition | A self -awareness of how a person thinks; thinking about how you think |  |
| 20.) mood | The atmosphere or feel of the story, it may be serious, humorous, satiric; the overall feeling you get when reading a story |  |

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| 21.) narrator | Person or character telling the story |  |
| 22.) plot | A sequence of related events that make up a story |  |
| 23.) point of view-limited/ omniscient | How the author chooses to tell the story- 1st person-told by one of the characters, 3rd person- not a character in the story; limited-narrator is telling from a single person perspective,omniscient- narrator sees into the minds of all characters and includes most |  |
| 24.) prologue | A preface or introduction to the story, the author's setting forth of the meaning or purpose |  |
| 25.) propaganda | Information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement,institution, or nation |  |
| 26.) protagonist | A main character of the story (often the hero) |  |
| 27.) resolution/denouement (pronounced day-newma) | The end of the central story or play; a satisfying conclusion to the story (open or closed) |  |
| 28.) rising action | events from a story preceding the climax where various problems arise; the explanation and complications that lead to the climax |  |
| 29.) setting | Time and place in which the action of the story takes place |  |
| 30.) stereotype | A character that fits a standardized mental picture of what members of a certain group are like |  |
| 31.) style | The way an author puts the words together to create a story using a combination of literary elements to create something unique and personal, it affects how we read and respond to a story |  |
| 32.) suspense | mental uncertainty,excitement as to the outcome |  |
| 33.) symbol | A person, place,or object that has meaning in itself, but suggests other meanings as well; a concrete object used to represent an abstract idea/concept |  |
| 34.) theme | The main idea or message of the story that the author wants the reader to know; universal truth |  |
| 35.) tone | The author's attitude toward the subject, reader, or character; could be light-hearted, distant, humorous, creepy, mysterious |  |
| 36.) irony | When the outcome or action is unexpected or opposite of what you would expect |  |
| 37.) |  |  |
| 38.) |  |  |
| 39.) |  |  |
| 40.) |  |  |