Literary Terms for 6th Grade Language Arts - Sam Houston Middle School

1. **Author**—A person who writes a story or poem. Example: Patricia Paocco wrote *Thunder Cake*

2. **Playwright**—A person who writes a play. Example: William Shakespeare wrote, *Romeo and Juliet*

3. **Plot**—The sequence of events or actions in a story. Plot includes exposition (setting and characters), sequence of events (rising action and falling action), conflict, climax, and exposition.

4. **Setting**—The time and place in which a story occurs. Ex: Once upon a time/In the forest

5. **Characters**—People or animals that take part in the action of a story. Ex: Cinderella, the three stepsisters, & stepmother.

6. **Protagonist**—The main character in a story that usually promotes “good”, but not always. Ex: Superman, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood.

7. **Antagonist**—The character who conflicts with the antagonist who usually is the “bad guy”, but not always. Ex: Big Bad Wolf, the Wicked Witch, the Ogre in Jack and the Bean Stalk.

7. **Conflict**—The struggle against opposing forces (protagonist and antagonist).
   1.) Man vs. Man  Example: a long standing feud between two people
   2.) Man vs. Self  Example: depression
   3.) Man vs. Society  Example: a person who cannot follow rules or laws
   4.) Man vs. Nature  Example: a person lost in the forest

9. **Climax**—This is when the protagonist and antagonist collide and is the most exciting part of a story. It is also the turning point of the story.

11. **Diction**—The choice of words utilized by the author.

12. **Irony**—The intended meaning of a statement differs from the meaning that the words appear to express. Example: Yes, I’d love to stay after school every day and work until 8pm.

13. **Hyperbole**—An exaggeration. Example: I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.

14. **Simile**—A comparison of two unlike objects using like or as. Example: She is **as beautiful as** a flower. She is **like** a flower.

15. **Metaphor**—A comparison of two unlike objects **NOT** using like or as. Example: She is **a flower. She was** a flower.

16. **Foreshadowing**—A hint given of an event which happens later in the story. Example: The music that plays in a scary movie before something bad happens.

17. **Flashback**—An interruption where the actions shifts from present to past; like a memory.

18. **Alliteration**—Beginning several consecutive words with the same sound. Example: Sally sold seashells by the seashore.
19. **Onomatopoeia**—Using words that mimic sounds they describe. Example: Bang, moo, meow, crash.

20. **Rhyme**—The repetition of ending sounds in two or more words usually found in a poem. Example: The queen of **doom** upon her **broom**.

21. **Idiom**—Using colorful phrases in place of standard statements. Example: It’s raining cats and dogs instead of, it’s raining heavily.

22. **Imagery**—A picture created in the reader’s mind through the author’s diction. Example: A dangling nose and ten twisted toes.

23. **Personification**—Giving inanimate objects human characteristics. Example: In the movie *Cats and Dogs* the animals behave like humans.

24. **Symbolism**—Something that stands for something else. Example: The setting sun is a symbol of running out of time.

25. **Cause**—The reason something happens. Example: I woke up late for school.

26. **Effect**—The thing that happens; the result. Example: I received a detention for being tardy.

27. **Tone**—The writer’s attitude toward a subject or character he/she is writing about.

28. **Mood**—How a story makes YOU, the reader, feel.

29. **Denotation**—The literal or dictionary definition of a word. Example: A fool is a person who entertained kings and queens.

30. **Connotation**—The implied or suggested positive/negative meaning of a word. Example: A fool is someone who makes poor choices and is looked upon as stupid (negative meaning). What’s up fool (positive meaning)?

31. **Summary**—An account of what happens throughout the story. Fiction = CPR (Character, Problem, Resolution) & Non-Fiction = BME (Beginning, Middle, End)

32. **Fact**—Something that has happened, it can be proved, and everyone can agree on it. Example: Mrs. Ortiz is a Language Arts teacher.

33. **Opinion**—Tells how someone thinks or feels about something. Example: Mrs. Ortiz is the best Language Arts teacher.

34. **Predicting**—To guess the most likely end to a situation based on a piece of the story and what you already know (your background knowledge).

35. **Drawing Conclusions**—Making a judgment or decision based on many given clues after reading the entire story.

36. **Inference**—To make a good guess about information not actually stated directly in a story or text.

37. **Generalization**—The grouping of people, things, or ideas without including or excluding. Example: Girls are smart.