

A

affix

A non-word morpheme that changes the meaning or function of a root or stem to which it is attached, such as the prefix *ad-* and the suffix *-ing* in *adjoining*.

alliteration

The repetition of the initial sounds in neighboring words or stressed syllables. For example: *The beautiful blue bug flew freely from flower to flower.*

analogy

A resemblance in some particulars between things otherwise unlike.

antonym

A word that means the opposite of another word (e.g., *hot* and *cold* are antonyms).

approximated spelling

The practice of allowing students to spell words as they believe they might be spelled, freeing them from the fear of misspellings, which allows them to focus on other areas of writing.

assonance

The repetition of words in identical or similar vowel sounds followed by different consonant sounds such as *Jill Mc Gilllicuddy asked Billy Miller to fill the tank.*

author's purpose

The author's intention for creating a particular piece of writing. A particular piece of writing may serve more than one purpose, for example to entertain and to persuade.

B

base word

A word to which prefixes and suffixes may be attached to create related words such as *design* in *redesign* and *designer*.

C

cause-effect relationship

A stated or implied association between an outcome and the conditions which brought it about, often an organizing principle in narrative and expository texts.

character development

The process throughout a story of providing depth to a character by describing their attitude, thoughts, actions, reactions, social standing, history, and cultural background.

chat (video/audio/text)

The process of reciprocal communication between two or more parties utilizing digital media.

clause

A group of words with a subject and a predicate, used to form either a part of or a whole sentence.

commonly used list

A list of words determined to be grade-appropriate.

commercialism

Information included in writing for the purpose of increasing profit or building of a business—often disguised as informational text.

compare/contrast

A method utilized to show similarities and differences between two things, ideas, etc.

compound word	A combination of two or more words that functions as a single unit of meaning
conceptual categories	Categories that represent ideas such as colors, numbers, months, days of the week, position words, etc.
conflict	The struggle either within or between characters that is often the basis of the plot of a play or story.
connotation	See denotation/connotation
context clues	Information used from the words surrounding a specific word that helps the reader or listener identify the meaning of a word.

D

declarative sentence	A sentence that makes a statement and ends with a period.
denotation/connotation	A pair of terms referring to the distinction between the literal, dictionary definition of a word (denotation), and the associations it has acquired in use (connotation).
derivation	A word formed by adding an affix to a root or stem.
description	A part of a composition that helps to create a mental picture.
dictation	The message spoken by the teacher for students to copy.
digital media or resources	Usually referring to electronic media such as CD-ROM, databases, and internet resources.
digraph	Two letters that represent one speech sound, as ch for /ch/ in chin or /ea for /e/ in bread.
diphthong	A vowel sound produced when the tongue moves or glides from one vowel sound toward another vowel or semivowel sound in the same syllable, as /i/ in buy.
distance learning	Courses of study designed to meet the needs of learners who are not “on site”.

E

environmental print	Print and other graphic symbols, in addition to books, that are found in the student’s physical environment, as street signs, billboards, television commercials, building signs, etc.
elements of the story	The characters, setting(s), plot, theme, and events that comprise the story.
e-pals	Friends/acquaintances that are corresponded and communicated with via electronic communication.
exclamatory sentence	A sentence that makes an exclamatory statement or shows strong or vehement emotion. It is punctuated with an exclamation point.

F

fact/opinion	A method of organizing informational text that may blend both facts and personal opinions to persuade the reader to think in a particular way. This method can also be used as part of a compare and contrast activity.
figurative language	Language enriched by word images and figures of speech.
flashback	The technique of disrupting the chronology of a narrative by shifting to an earlier time in order to introduce information.
fluency	The ability to read, write, and speak clearly and effectively without the constraints of decoding, word recognition, and articulation errors.
folktale	A narrative form that is or has been retold within a culture for generations and is well known through repeated storytelling. Folktale types include campfire stories, fairy tale, fables, ghost stories, legends, myths, nursery rhymes, tall tales,
foreshadowing	The technique of giving clues to coming events in a narrative.
free writing	Writing that is unrestricted in form, style, content, and purpose

G

genres	Categories of informational and literary works (e.g., biography, poetry, and science fiction).
gloss	A brief explanation of printed text, usually in the margin or in an appendix, but sometimes between the lines, as in interlinear gloss.
grade-level vocabulary	These words may be taken from other curricular areas and would be appropriate to local curriculum and related formative assessments.

H

high-frequency words	Words that appear most often in written and spoken language.
homograph	A word with the same spelling as another word, whether or not it is pronounced alike (e.g., <i>pen</i> (a writing instrument) and <i>pen</i> (an enclosure for an animal). Homographs encompass homonyms and homophones.
homonym	A word with the same spelling as another word, but with a different meaning (e.g., <i>He will read the book today. Once he has read it, he will write his review.</i>)
homophone	A word that sounds the same as another word, but may have a different spelling (e.g., <i>tail</i> and <i>tale</i>).
hyperbole	An intentionally exaggerated figure of speech such as, "I have told you a million times."

I

ideas	One of the 6+1 Traits of Writing. It focuses on the central topic or theme that will be used in a writing piece.
idiom	An expression that does not mean what it literally says, such as, “Those jeans cost an arm and a leg!”
imagery	The process or result of forming mental images while reading or listening to a story.
imperative sentence	A sentence that expresses a demand or a request. It is punctuated with a period.
infer	To understand something that isn’t directly stated in the text by relating it to past experiences and knowledge combined with the text.
informational text	Text provided to expose a reader to a particular subject. It may include expository text, technical writing, and other resources.
interrogative sentence	A sentence that asks a question. It is punctuated with a question mark.
irony	A literary device that creates an inconsistency between the outcome of a sequence of events, and the outcome that was anticipated.

J

K

L

literary device	Rules and terms used in literature to better convey the author’s message. Literary elements and literary techniques would be considered as subsets of literary devices.
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M

metaphor	A figure of speech in which a comparison is implied by analogy but is not stated such as, “He is a snake!”
medium	The various physical means through which information may be communicated or aesthetic forms created, for example, newspapers, film, books, computer software, painting, or other format.
memoir	An account of one’s personal experiences and observations.
modality	Any of the sensory systems of receiving, processing, and responding to information received through the five senses.
multi-media presentations	The combining of several media into a single effort, as in the use of slides, film, sound effects, etc. into a presentation.

myth

See folktale.

narrative

A story, real or fictional, that is written or told orally and gives an accounting of the events that occurred in the story.

**organization/
organizational patterns**

Text structures including: chronological, cause/effect, fact/opinion, problem to solution, climactic, reverse climactic, process, and classification.

**online collaborative
tools**

Resources that can be utilized via the internet to work with others on a project. These tools may include video conferencing, document sharing, chat software, etc.

onomatopoeia

The use of words the sound of which suggests their meaning such *bang, fizz, and woof*.

onset and rime

Onset: the consonant(s) preceding the first vowel in a monosyllabic word such as *fl* in the word *fling*. **Rime:** the vowel and any following consonants of the word such as the *ing* in the word *fling*.

oxymoron

A figure of speech in which contrasting or contradictory words are brought together for emphasis, such as, “plastic glass” or “clearly confused”.

parallelism

The phrasing of language so as to balance ideas of equal importance; parallel construction such, “government *of* the people, *by* the people, and *for* the people”, or, “Ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country.”

personification

Metaphorical figure of speech in which animals, ideas, things, etc. are represented as having human qualities.

phoneme

The smallest sound unit of speech, that when contrasted with another phoneme can change the meaning of a word. For example if the phoneme /f/ in *fish* is replaced with the phoneme /d/, the word becomes *dish*.

phonological awareness

See phoneme.

pitch

The rise and fall of the voice when speaking.

plot

The structure of the action of a story.

podcast

A computer audio file that is packaged for distribution across the internet. It is most commonly used for information, training, and instruction.

**prescribed format of
resources**

This would include headings on papers and the manuscript formatting style chosen by individual districts or buildings (e.g., MLA or APA style formatting).

prefix

An affix attached before a base word or root.

product placement

The inclusion of a recognizable product in a television show or film as a form of paid advertisement. For example, a character in a series may be seen with a Pepsi can in his hand.

proposition support

Support for a statement offered as true or for testing a statement as true.

presentation

The seventh trait of the 6+1 Traits of Writing which addresses how the page looks when the piece is in its final form.

publish

To prepare written material for presentation to an audiences whether informally to classmates, as in part of the writing process or formally.

Q

R

reciprocal communication

The process of communication where all participants respond and participate actively.

retell

The act of a reader telling what happened in a story they have just read, in their own words.

rhythm

The recurring emphasis in the flow of spoken or written speech.

rime

See onset and rime.

root word

Carries the basic unit of meaning for a more complex word. It cannot be broken down further without the loss of meaning.

S

self-monitoring

The conscious awareness of the progress of the text, marked by rereading and reflection on features of the text needed to communicate effectively to an audience.

semantic relationships

The relationships between words within a particular context that provides the meaning of the words.

sensory details

Descriptions in writing that are used to allow the reader to experience the story through their five senses.

sentence fluency

The readability of a piece of writing based upon the blend of long and short sentences and the flow between them.

sequence

The linear arrangement of something.

setting

The physical and psychological background against which the action in a story takes place. It may also include the time and place in which a narrative occurs.

simile

A figure of speech that compares two unlike things using *like* or *as*. For example, *“That idea went over like a concrete balloon.”*

social bookmarking

A method for internet users to store, organize, search, and manage bookmarks of web pages on the internet. Some sites include tagging or labeling procedures which allow other users to find these bookmarks and then access the resources quickly and efficiently.

social networking

A group of individuals tied together through some commonality, most commonly today via the internet. Common examples are Twitter and Facebook.

story elements

See elements of the story.

structural analysis

The identification of word-meaning elements within a word, such as *sub* and *par* in *subpar*.

style

The characteristic way in which a person conceives and expresses ideas through language.

syllabication

The division of words into syllables.

symbolism

The use of one thing to suggest something else; the use of symbols to represent abstract ideas in concrete ways.

synonym

Two or more words in a language that have highly similar meanings such as *sadness*, *grief*, and *sorrow*.

T

text features

Parts of a particular type of text such as chapter titles, sub-heading and bold-faced words in a history text that help the reader to readily locate the most important information, or to determine how that information is organized.

text structure

Various patterns of ideas that are embedded in the organization of text. Common patterns include expository, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, problem-solution, description, and sequence.

theme

A topic of discussion, writing, etc. The major idea or proposition broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work. May also be the topic of a sentence, depending upon the grade level.

thesis

The basic argument advanced by a speaker or writer who then attempts to prove it; the subject or major argument of a speech or composition.

tone

The inflections that mark the speech of a person or region; a particular style in speaking or writing, generally appropriate to the intended audience.

U

V

voice

The quality of writing that contains the writer's emotions, personality, etc. that distinguish the writing from an encyclopedia article or dictionary definition.

W

X

Y

Z

References

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