

Spicewood's Reading and Writing Term Definitions

Alliteration - repetition of identical consonant sounds, usually at the beginning of words, such as in: "The infamous killer fought for his freedom, wanting not flesh but retreat."

Analogy - a comparison between two things to show their similarities by comparing something unfamiliar to something familiar

Anecdote - short account of a true event in a person's life used to raise points, explain ideas, or describe personalities

Antagonist/Protagonist - person or force that opposes the protagonist in a story or drama; Villain or person fighting against the hero of a story; Central character of the story, novel, play or poem who usually receives the reader's sympathies

Antonym - entirely different, opposite

Autobiography - story of a person's life written by that person. A diary in a form that lists day by day events

Author's Purpose - an author must first decide what his/her reason for writing is. Is it to compare or to contrast? Is it to put similar ideas into groups? Is it to give reasons (cause and effect)?

Boldfaced - darker, thicker, or highlighted print

Brainstorming - thinking skill that initiates discussion

Cause-Effect - causes are because of something. Effects are the conditions that resulted from the cause(s).

Character - person in a literary work

flat - reveals one personality trait

round - shows variety of complex and sometimes contradictory traits

static - remains the same throughout the work

dynamic - changes due to influence of events or other people

Character Traits - attributes of a character

Characterization - personality of a character and the method the author uses to create this personality.

direct - writer states fact about character

indirect - character revealed through physical appearance, words, thoughts, actions, or through what other characters say about that character. (most frequent method)

Climax - point of highest tension and excitement in a narrative--occurs in the middle of a tragedy when the event that will lead to the down fall of the tragic hero takes place

Clocking - proofreading or editing technique where students sit facing each other in two concentric circles (like a clock). The teacher calls out details to be checked. Students in the inner circle remain seated while the other students move one place to the right after each detail is checked

Colloquial Language - everyday language used in conversation

Composition - writing in which all the ideas work together to form a piece of writing

Conclusion - sums up the information in a paragraph or a complete piece

Conferences -

Peer - working in writing groups with a peer

Conflict - struggle between two opposing forces, center of plot

Internal - within a person

External - character struggles with a outside force, such as nature, a person, society, and fate.

Connotation - all suggested meanings and associations a word brings to mind beyond its denotation or literal meaning

Cubing - a prewriting strategy to help the writer learn to look at a subject from a variety of perspectives. During this prewriting, students quickly shift perspectives on a topic, usually a thing, by describing it; associating it with some experience, person, or event; applying it in some way; analyzing it by breaking it into parts; comparing it to or contrasting it with something; and finally arguing for or against it - taking a stand. By writing something for each of these, the writer progresses through Bloom's Taxonomy and uses higher levels of thinking.

Details- who, what, where, when, why

Description - writing that creates an impression of a person, place or thing to enhance poems, stories, and nonfiction

Dialect - type of speech that differs from the standard form of language, occurring in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar

Dialogue - conversation between characters in drama, fiction, nonfiction, epic, or dramatic poem--reveals characters, thoughts and opinions and allows for interplay of ideas

Diary - individual's personal day-by-day account of impressions of events, may be chronicled in a journal-less intimate than a diary

Diction - choice of words to fit a character, theme, setting, or subject of a poem, story, essay, or play--used to express what is intended

Double Dyads - Double dyads are kin to proofreading. They are used immediately before the final copy is to be handed in and allows peers to become editors

Draft - the first complete writing about a subject

Editing - consistent correction marks

Correction Symbols

agreement

agr

awkward expression

awk

capitalization

cap.(=)

comma splice	CS
dangling modifier	d.m.
double negative	d. Neg.
sentence fragment	frag.
grammar	gram.
make a lower case letter	l.c.(/)
misplaced modifier	mis.mod.
omission	^
paragraph	.
pronoun reference	pro.ref.
punctuation	p.
unclear	?
repetitious	R
run-on sentence	RO
spelling	sp.
verb tense	t.
check this out	
transition	trans.
topic sentence	TS
usage	U.
word choice	w.c.
more words than needed	wordy

Elaboration - added detail

Event - an important occurrence

Fact/Fantasy - see fact below/ fantasy is an imaginative poem, play, story, etc.

Fact/Non-fact - a statement which can be proven to be true. A statement which can be proven to be not true

Fact/Opinion - a fact is a specific statement which can be checked or proven to be true, an opinion is a view or belief held by a person. (A good opinion is based on fact, but it is not a fact itself.)

Figurative Language - (aka: Figures of Speech) a form or expression in which words are used out of their usual sense in order to make the meaning more specific by clarifying, ornamenting, adding emotional force; language not meant to be interpreted literally, but used in a special way to create a special effect: "snowed with meat and port"

- a. analogy
- b. hyperbole - an obvious exaggeration for the sake of effect without any attempt of deception
- c. metaphor - a comparison, either expressed or implied, without the use of like or as
- d. onomatopoeia
- e. simile - a comparison of two persons, things, or other elements with the use of like or as
- f. idioms - an accepted phrase or expression having a different meaning as literal, peculiar to our language
- g. personification - the giving of personality or life to inanimate objects or to ideas
- h. symbol - a figure in which a concrete object is used to stand for an abstract idea
- i. understatement - an expression which actually says less than might be said

Flashback - interruption to relate events that occurred earlier, used in stream of consciousness and conventional narratives

Foreshadowing - use of clues by the author to prepare reader for events to come

Genre - is the French word for the form or type of literature. It is a category of literary composition

- a. adventure
- b. biography
- c. fables
- d. fairy tales
- e. fantasy
- f. folk tales
- h historical fiction
- i. horror fiction
- j. legends/myths
- k. mysteries
- l. non-fiction
- m. poetry
- n. realistic fiction

Glossary - follows the appendix and is the dictionary portion of the book. It is an alphabetical listing of words with an explanation of each

Graphic organizer - heuristic, such as a web, story map, Venn diagram, listing, KWL, FLU boards

What is Guided Reading?

- an instructional situation in which the teacher and student talk, think and read their way through a new text
- a small group of students reading text on their instructional level
- a situation where each student has a copy of the book
- diagnostic, instructional and evaluative

Why do we need it?

- to provide opportunities for students to read with guidance and assistance
- to provide instruction at the appropriate level
- to increase comprehension within the context of a book or story
- to provide immediate instruction and feedback to problems
- to address reading and word skills within the context of a book
- to use as a tool to evaluate and assess

Homonym - a word with the same pronunciation as a different word but with a different meaning (sail-sale, boar-bore)

Homophone - a word with two different pronunciations (read-read)

Imagery - words or phrases that evoke sensory images in the reader's mind. Visual is most common but others occur

What is Independent Reading?

-students reading familiar books that are on their independent reading level

Why do we need it?

- to give students the opportunity to use all strategies on a familiar text
- to develop fluency
- to build self-confidence
- to increase comprehension

Index - an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc. indicating pages where found, as in a book

Inference - a conclusion drawn from something known or assumed

Interior Monologue - internal speech by a single speaker provided by the narrator to explain characters' personalities or to reveal their thoughts

Italics - a style of type which is slightly slanted upward

Journal - daily record of events kept by an individual who is a participant or witness in the events-used to learn about people and history. A Reading Response Journal is a notebook or journal in which the author writes freely about the books s/he's read

KWL - What do I know?, What do I want to know?, What did I learn?

Lead - opening sentence or paragraph that introduces a piece of writing and gains the reader's attention: the "hook"

Looping - Students write a topic at the top of a sheet of paper. Then, the students' free-write on that topic for 5 to 10 minutes. They loop their "center of gravity" and begin five to ten more minutes of writing. They then circle their centers of gravity which become the second loop, and then do this process one more time. Some students find a pattern to write further on, others may need to loop further.

Main Idea - Stated/Implied - the point of a paragraph or composition

Mood - emotional feeling and atmosphere in a work of literature, created by description, actions of characters, and setting

Narrative Hook - point in the story, novel or play where the author catches the reader's attention by presenting an interesting problem or situation that begins the conflict

Narrative - writing that tells a story in chronological order, has evolved into the novel

Narrator - storyteller

Olympic Scoring - Olympic scoring approximates the evaluation system used at the Olympic Games. Students work with one element of writing by grouping on that element with two different partners. Each writer then compares the values received in each of the ten areas and makes decisions for further work on the paper. This strategy works best in mini-lessons centered on writing about characters, developing characters, and rounding out flat characters.

Onomatopoeia - words with sounds that imitate or suggest their meanings: thump, thump

Opinion - what someone believes is true

Parts of Speech - All words in our language are divided into eight groups which are called the parts of speech. Each part of speech includes words that are used in the same way in a sentence. A word can be used in different ways

- Nouns- name a person, place, thing, or idea
- Pronouns - are used in place of nouns
- Verbs - express action or state of being
- Adjectives - describe a noun or pronoun
- Adverbs - tell something about a verb, an adjective, or another verb
- Prepositions - show how a noun is related to some other word in a sentence
- Interjections - show emotion or surprise
- Conjunctions - connect words or groups of words

Personification - figure of speech where human traits are given to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas

Plays - stories written to be performed before an audience

Plot - sequence of events in a short story, novel, or play, each event causing or leading to the next, relates to the struggles that main character goes through in the conflict. Begins with exposition, then narrative hook, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution-final outcome

Point of view - is the angle from which a story is told. This depends upon who is telling the story. The relationship of the narrator to the story can be:

1. first person - story told by one of the characters
2. third person - story told by someone outside the story.
3. *omniscient - told as if writer is able to read the minds of characters

Predicting - to foretell the story, to state what one believes will happen

Prefixes - word parts that come before the root word

Prewriting - Prewriting is so much more than sitting down with paper and writing on a topic with the appropriate number of supporting details. It is a way of learning to perceive, a way of taking from the writer's life material that has potential for writing. It is living the writing. Prewriting also weaves in and out of writing, and allows the writer to move in and out of experiences

Probable Outcome - what likely will occur as the solution

Problem/Solution - a perplexing or difficult matter/the outcome, answer, or solving of a problem

Proofreading - to read and mark corrections on: spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage, and grammar

Publishing - the most important step in the writing process! Sharing one's story will naturally make one work harder at a piece they know will be read

Ratiocination - Ratiocination is a systematic revision strategy. It invites students through a process of coding and decoding clues, to manipulate sentences, consider syntax and diction, activate verbs, vary sentence beginnings, avoid weak repetition, refresh cliché', and in general develop and clarify their thinking and writing

What is Read-Aloud?

-a teacher reading a story (usually at a higher level) out loud to the students

Why do we need it?

- to model fluent reading
- to increase comprehension
- to give students the opportunity to hear vocabulary in context
- to give students the opportunity to hear different language structures
- to provide an adult model

Reporters Formula - This is a prewriting technique based on the standard journalistic approach to gathering information - who? what? where? why? when? how? By using this strategy a writer may plumb the depths, uncover the hidden, or startle the unexpected onto the blank page.

Resolution - part of the plot that ends the falling action by telling or implying the final outcome

Revision - changing a draft for improvement

Rising Action - action in play or story that leads to the climax

Root Words - word bases

Say Back - Say back is one of the most constructive strategies because it begins with positive comments and concludes with helpful suggestions. This strategy works best about midway through the writing process, when students think they have included everything in their writing or know they have some rough spots but are unsure how to clarify them

Sequence - the order in which something occurs; a series

What is Shared Reading?

- using a text that is visibly accessible to everyone (big book, charts, basals, transparencies etc.)
- the teacher is the dominant, but not the only reader
- an opportunity to discuss many aspects of book

Why do we need it?

- to develop concepts about print and language
- to give students the opportunity to hear fluent reading
- to model useful reading strategies
- to teach and review appropriate skills within the context of a book
- to increase comprehension through discussion

Style – author's choice and arrangement of words in any kind of writing to convey individuality, theme and purpose

Suffixes - endings after the root word

Summarize - Summarizing invites listeners to synthesize what they have heard in four ways. Further, it prevents parroting. Its purpose is to let the writer know what stood out, what stuck in the listener's consciousness

Symbol - figure of speech where a person, object or situation represents something in addition to its literal meaning: Dove-peace

Synonyms - words that have the same meaning

Table of Contents - shows the major divisions of a book. It comes right before the body of a book and is used to help locate major topics or areas covered in the book

Theme - the central or main idea in a piece of writing such as a story, poem, novel or play, usually expressed as a statement about life:

Stated - announced explicitly

Implied - revealed indirectly

Time order - Words like first, second, next, finally, after that help explain the order in which they happen

Tone - attitude writer expresses towards the subject and reader. May be casual, angry, amused, or indifferent

Topic Sentence - is a sentence that tells the reader what the paragraph is about or its main idea

Tracking - following a passage with the use of a finger or pointer as words are being read

Venn Diagram - a graphic organizer used to compare or contrast two subjects

Voice - the way a writer expresses ideas, "Writing that sounds believable is often written in an honest, natural voice."

Web - a graphic organizer where a key word is put down and details are drawn off of key word/other words

What is Word Study?

- a time for direct and explicit letter and word work

- a creative and manipulative time to look at words and letters

Why do we need it?

- provides a time for direct instruction

- provides a time to focus on just letters and words

- addresses different concepts such as rhymes, letters, onset and rimes, digraphs, blends, endings, compound words, syllables, prefixes, suffixes and analogies, etc.

- provides an opportunity to practice high frequency words

Writing Process - the steps a writer usually follows whenever he or she writes. Prewriting, writing the first draft, revising, editing, proofreading and publishing are the main steps in the writing process.