

8th Grade CCSS Literary Terms Study Sheet 1

1. folk tale A story with no known author that originally was passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth.
2. foreshadowing The use of clues to suggest events that will happen later in the plot.
3. free verse Poetry without a regular meter or rhyme scheme.
4. imagery Language that appeals to the senses.
5. irony In general, a contrast between expectation and reality.
6. main idea The most important idea expressed in a paragraph or in an essay.
7. metamorphosis A marvelous change from one shape or form to another.
8. metaphor An imaginative comparison between two unlike things in which one thing is said to be another thing.
9. mood The overall emotion created by a work of literature.
10. myth A story that explains something about the world and typically involves Gods or other superhuman beings.
11. nonfiction Prose writing that deals with real people, events, and places without changing any facts.
12. novel A fictional story that is usually more than one hundred book pages long.
13. onomatopoeia The use of words whose sounds echo their sense.
14. personification A figure of speech in which a nonhuman or nonliving thing or quality is talked about as if it were human or alive.
15. plot The series of related events that make up a story including the introduction, exposition, conflict, complications, climax, and resolution.