

English Language Arts – Key Terms & Definitions

- ☐ **5 W's of newspapers** - who, what, when, where, why
- ☐ **Abbreviation** – shortened form of a word
- ☐ **Affix** – group of letters and sounds added to a root word
- ☐ **Alliteration** – repetition of sound at the beginning of words
- ☐ **Allusion** – reference to a famous person or work
- ☐ **Alphabetical** – abcd order
- ☐ **Analogy** – point by point comparison of two things
- ☐ **Antonyms** – opposites
- ☐ **Autobiography** – life story written by self
- ☐ **Ballad** – short, simple story-telling poem meant to be a song
- ☐ **Bandwagon** – an appeal to a person's desire to be part of a group
- ☐ **Bias** – one-sided judgment held without looking at **evidence**
- ☐ **Biography** – someone's life story
- ☐ **Cause and Effect** – event (cause) that brings about an action (effect)
- ☐ **Character** – person in a literary work
- ☐ **Chronological** – order events happen in time
- ☐ **Classifying** – breaking large groups into smaller groups based on similar characteristics
- ☐ **Clichés** – overused phrase or expression

- ☐ **Climax** – point of maximum interest
- ☐ **Comedy** – drama with a humorous tone
- ☐ **Comparison** – show similarities of two things
- ☐ **Compound** words – words formed by putting two or more words together
- ☐ **Conflict** – struggle between opposing forces
- ☐ **Connotation** – Ideas and feelings associated with a word
- ☐ **Consonants** – non vowels
- ☐ **Context clues** – words or phrases that help a reader understand meaning
- ☐ **Contradictions** – putting opposite words together in pairs (mildly fatal)
- ☐ **Contrast** – show differences of two things
- ☐ **Couplet** – rhymed pairs of lines in a poem
- ☐ **Denotation** – dictionary definition
- ☐ **Description** – a picture in words
- ☐ **Dialogue** – the words that characters speak aloud
- ☐ **Drama** – Form of literature performed before an audience
- ☐ **Elegy** – lyric poem about death
- ☐ **Essay** – short work of non-fiction that deals with a single subject
- ☐ **Exposition** – writing that informs
- ☐ **Fable** – brief story that teaches a life lesson on human nature

- ❑ **Fact** – a true statement
- ❑ **Fantasy** – story that takes place in an unreal, imaginary world
- ❑ **Farce** – exaggerated comedy with ridiculous situations
- ❑ **Fiction** – prose writing that tells an imaginary story
- ❑ **Figurative language** – helps reader picture ordinary things in new ways
- ❑ **Flashback** – begins story in the middle and goes back to retell to that point
- ❑ **Folktale** – story passed down within a culture
- ❑ **Foreshadowing** – hints that suggest future events in a story
- ❑ **Free verse** – poetry without rhyme or rhythm
- ❑ **Genre** – a category of literature
- ❑ **Grouping** – see classifying
- ❑ **Historical fiction** – fiction set in the past
- ❑ **Homographs** – same spelling with different meaning (bow-bend, bow-knot)
- ❑ **Homophones** – sound the same but with different meaning (too, to, two)
- ❑ **Hyperbole** – use of exaggeration
- ❑ **Hyphenated** word – two words joined by a dash (-) to make a new word
- ❑ **Idioms** – expression has meaning different from the words (go to the dogs)

- ☐ **Imagery** – words and phrases that appeal to reader's senses
- ☐ **Inference** – logical guess based on the evidence
- ☐ **Inverted** pyramid – most important details are at the beginning of the story
- ☐ **Irony** – contrast between what is expected and what happens
- ☐ **Lytic** poem – short, musical poem that expresses thoughts and feelings
- ☐ **Main idea** – writer's principal message
- ☐ **Making inferences** – make a reasonable conclusion based in information
- ☐ **Melodrama** – exaggerated drama that relies on impossible events
- ☐ **Metaphor** – comparison of two things that have a quality in common
- ☐ **Mood** – feelings a work gives to a reader
- ☐ **Moral of a story** – lesson that a story teaches
- ☐ **Mystery** – story that depends on clues that solves a problem in the story
- ☐ **Narration** – telling a story
- ☐ **Narrative** – writing that tells a story
- ☐ **Narrative biography** – a person's life is written from birth to death
- ☐ **Nonfiction** – writing that tells about real people and places
- ☐ **Novel** – a work of fiction that is longer/more complex than a short story
- ☐ **Onomatopoeia** – words whose sound suggests meaning (buzz, sizzle)
- ☐ **Opinion** – what a person believes is true
- ☐ **Oxymoron** – use of opposite words together (jumbo shrimp)

- ☐ **Paraphrasing** – restate information in one's own words
- ☐ **Personification** – human qualities to non-human things
- ☐ **Persuasion** – tries to influence the reader in some way
- ☐ **Plagiarizing** – writing someone else's thoughts or words as if they were your own
- ☐ **Playwright** – author of a play
- ☐ **Plot** – sequence of events that make up a story
- ☐ **Poetry** – highly condensed literary form
- ☐ **Point of view** – perspective of a story
- ☐ **Predicting outcomes** – guess what will happen next
- ☐ **Prefix** – affix added to beginning of a word
- ☐ **Propaganda** – spreading of ideas that help or damage another person
- ☐ **Protagonist** – central character of a story
- ☐ **Rhyme scheme** – patterns of rhyme in a poem
- ☐ **Rhythm** – patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables
- ☐ **Science fiction** – fiction based on scientific developments
- ☐ **Script** – written words of a drama
- ☐ **Sequencing** – the order in which something happens
- ☐ **Setting** – time and place
- ☐ **Short story** – brief work of fiction read in a single session
- ☐ **Simile** – comparison using like or as

- **Sonnet** – poem of 14 lines with a set rhyme scheme
- **Spatial** – describe by moving from one area to the next
- **Suffix** – added to end of a word to change the word meaning
- **Summary** – retelling a piece of writing in one's own words without unimportant details
- **Symbol** – person or object that stands for something else
- **Synonyms** – similar in meaning
- **Testimonial** – first hand recommendation of a product
- **Theme** – message about life in a work
- **Tone** – attitude given by the author
- **Topical biography** – only key events in a subject's life are covered
- **Tragedy** – dramatic work that presents a downfall of a character
- **Verse** – a line of poetry