

Literary Terms

Alliterate: The ability to read at or above age/grade level, but lacking the interest or motivation to read.

Annotation: A critical analysis of the text, which includes both a thorough summary and professional evaluation with critical analysis.

Anticipation Statement: A true or false question or set of questions, often related to moral or ethical values, relating self to text or world to text. The reader responds to the question before reading, then revisits the question after reading to see if the reading changed the reader's opinion.

Book Commercial: A promotion for the book, similar to a movie trailer or TV commercial, intended to interest a person into reading the material.

Book Review: A summary of the reading, without giving too much away, plus the reader's constructive thoughts, ideas, opinions, criticisms written for a person that has not read it, but is trying to figure out whether it would be something they'd be interested in reading.

Book Talk (Booktalk): A verbal or written 'tease' to promote a particular read (book or other reading format). Tantalize the audience with just a 'taste' of the mood, theme, characters, setting, and plot. The book talker 'talks' the audience into wanting to read his recommendation without giving away too much or the ending.

Character: person or animal
Characters are how the reader connects to the story on a personal level.
Characters have personality, opinions, feelings, and all other traits of a real person or animal.

Conflict: Internal or external conflict (or struggle) between character, opposing forces, good/evil, etc.
Internal—a struggle within the character himself/herself
External—a struggle between the character and an outside force (this could be another character, nature, etc.)

Genre: A general category or particular theme for a book. See genre list for examples.

Interest Level: The suggested age or grade, usually a range, of the intended reader.

Lifelong Reader: A person with the skills and attitude to choose to read throughout life a variety of material in a variety of formats for information, to complete a task, and for pleasure.

Literacy: The ability to read, write, and generate thought, ideas, and information in age-appropriate, productive manner. Different literacy skills sets are necessary depending on the format of the information.

Mood: Atmosphere, feeling, set by the author for the reader. Often mood is considered an

Literary Terms

integral part of the setting (see Setting).
Funny, sad, scary, exciting, etc.

Motivation: Why a character does what he/she does. Motivations can be feelings, personal experiences, personal traits, and external forces.

Plot: Events to make up the story: Introduction, Climax, and Resolution/Conclusion, as well as
Problems/Obstacles the characters faced and possibly overcame.

Point of View: Point of View the story is told
First Person, Omniscient or All Knowing, Third Person

Read Alike: A book or group of books recommended to a reader for its similarity in quality, emotion, genre, plot, theme, characters, and/or writing style to a particular book or genre that appealed to the reader.

Read Aloud: Modeling effective reading, as well as enticing the listener to want to read more, through reading as much or as little as a sentence, paragraph, page, chapter. Selection should be anything with the 'wow' factor to grab the listener's interest and leave him wanting to read more on his own.

Reading Level: A general age equivalent for the material, usually a grade or lexile, for the reading, readability level.

Setting: Time **and** Place where the story takes place.
The setting help sets the mood, and influence the plot and characters. The setting should be visualized by the reader. Comparisons of the book's setting to a time and place the students understand and can relate to may be necessary

Summary: A straight-forward, detailed description of the storyline, without personal insights,
opinions or evaluations from the reader.

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) with Interventions: Actively engaging teachers and students in the reading experience through journaling, conferencing, sharing, and reading.

Theme: Usually indirectly stated by author—it's the main idea or central theme, sometimes considered moral, the story conveys. The meaning of the title for the novel is also usually integral to the theme.

Think Aloud: A Read Aloud (see Read Aloud) where the reader stops at times to explain his thinking, ask questions of himself, or even explain a reading strategy used to work through a piece of the text. This models for the listener processing reading effectively.

Resources:

- Callison, Daniel and Leslie Preddy. The Blue Book on Information Age Inquiry, Instruction and Literacy. Westport Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2006.
- McCarthy, Tara. Teaching Literary Elements. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 1997.
- O'Brien-Palmer, Michelle. Beyond Book Reports. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997.

Literary Terms

- Preddy, Leslie. "Promoting an Addiction to Reading." School Library Media Activities Monthly, vol. XXIV, no. 2, October 2007, pp. 24-26.
- Preddy, Leslie. SSR with Intervention: A School Library Action Research Project. Libraries Unlimited, 2007.
- Van Zile, Susan. Awesome Hands-on Activities for Teaching Literary Elements. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 2001.