

Glossary of Literary Terms

Analytical Reading: reading ‘like a professor’ by paying attention to symbol and pattern and asking many questions of the text in an organized fashion. Analytical reading requires observation, memory, imagination, and intellect.

Character Arc: the change the character will go through in the story.

Character Archetype: a common character type that represents universal patterns of human nature.

Character Moment: a dramatic scene in the first 12 percent of the text that makes the protagonist interesting or appealing to the reader, introduces the protagonists’ strengths and weaknesses, and builds the plot.

Comparative Reading: the reader reads many books and places them in relation to one another and to the subject about which they revolve.

Dialect: a particular form of language that is specific to a region or social group.

Elementary Reading: learning to read the words on the page.

Figurative/Metaphorical: departing from the literal use of words.

Final Plot Point: an event that takes place at the 88 percent mark, and this event marks the end of the falling action and the beginning of the resolution; it is the place where the character demonstrates there is “no going back” to their former self.

First Plot Point: occurs at the 25 percent mark and is the place where the protagonist makes a decision that starts the action of the story and begins a change in the protagonist.

Foreshadowing: a literary device whereby an author drops hints as to what is going to happen further along in the story.

Genre: a category of storytelling characterized by a particular content. In young adult and adult literature, typically 3–4 genres are represented in a novel.

Inspectional Reading: carefully observing the text looking for clues as to the author’s central message or theme.

Midpoint: the place at the 50 percent mark where the author’s central message first becomes visible to the reader, and the protagonist experiences a “mirror moment.”

Mirror Moment: a moment where the protagonist sees the truth about themselves, occurring at the 50 percent mark.

Mood: the emotional atmosphere of the story produced by the author's use of descriptive language.

Phrase-Cued Reading: a reading strategy where the text is specifically marked with slashes to indicate natural and meaningful pause points between phrases. This strategy is known to improve fluency and comprehension.

Plot: the interrelated series of events that create a story.

Plot Arc: includes the exposition, rising action, falling action, and resolution.

Plot Points: the critical events in the plot including the first plot point, midpoint, turning point, final plot point, and resolution.

Protagonist: the principal character in a literary work.

Resolution: the final events of a story that resolve the conflict and typically answer the reader's questions.

Setting: the time, place, and circumstance of the story.

Symbolism: the use of an idea to represent ideas or qualities.

Thematic Question: states what the protagonist must stop doing and what the protagonist must do to be transformed. (Will _____ (protagonist) _____ and _____?)

Theme: an idea or message that recurs in a story.

Text-Dependent Question: a question that can only be answered by referring to the text being read.

Turning Point: the place at the 75 percent mark where the author's central message is fully revealed to the reader, and the protagonist fully changes (the old self dies).