

Reading VSC Glossary

Alliteration: The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words of a sentence or line of poetry (*i.e.*, Waves want to be wheels...)

Analyze: To examine, closely study, and evaluate in order to better understand

Antonym: A word that means the opposite of another word (*i.e.*, *happy/sad*)

Base word: A word to which affixes may be added to create related words (*i.e.*, *hemisphere*, *coauthor*)

Bias: A general tendency or leaning in one direction; a partiality toward one view over another

Character: A person or animal represented in or acting in a story, poem, or drama

Cognate: A word related to one in another language, such as *theater* (English) and *theatre* (French)

Compound word: A combination of two or more words that function as a single unit of meaning, such as *barefoot*

Connotation: The surrounding emotional feelings associated with a word (*i.e.*, *Slaughter* has a stronger connotation than *destroy* or *kill*.)

Context clue: Information surrounding a word or phrase (*i.e.*, *words*, *phrases*, *sentences*, *illustrations*, or *syntax*) that gives clues to its meaning

Contraction: The shortening of a written or spoken word or expression by omission of one or more letters or sounds, such as *can't*

Denotation: The dictionary definition of a word (*i.e.*, *Dislike*, *hate*, and *repugnance* carry the same denotation of extreme distaste, but *repugnance* has the strongest connotation.)

Drama: A written story meant to be acted out on a stage

Ethnicities: Group characteristics related to race, country of origin, religion, or culture

Etymology: The origin or history of words

Fable: A story meant to teach a useful lesson that often has animals that speak and act like humans

Figurative language: Language enriched by word meanings and figures of speech (*i.e.*, *similes*, *metaphors*, *personification*, *hyperbole*)

Figures of speech: Words or groups of words the writer doesn't mean literally, such as *similes* (*thin as a curve*), *metaphors* (*...traffic is a high energy current jumping constantly between the poles of Brooklyn and New Jersey*), and *personification* (*...the very skins of the drums are singing with pleasure...*)

Flashback: A movement in time from the present to the past

Fluency: The ability to easily speak, read, or write a language; automatic word recognition, rapid decoding, and checking for meaning

Folk tale: A traditional story with a moral or lesson handed down by people of a region from one generation to the next

Folklore: The traditional customs, beliefs, stories, etc. of a people, country, or region

Foreshadow: To be a sign of future events

Genre: A category used to define literary works, usually by form, technique, or content (*i.e.*, poetry, realistic fiction, historical fiction, play, and folklore)

Glossed words: A type of footnote

Graphic organizer: Visual representations of information used for constructing meaning in reading, writing, and speaking

Haiku: A type of Japanese poetry about nature that is three lines long. The first line is five syllables, the second line is seven syllables, and the third line is five syllables long.

Hyperbole: A figure of speech that makes an intentional exaggeration for emphasis or comic effect

Illustration: Artwork, photography, or other pictures

Imagery: Words and phrases that create vivid sensory experiences for the reader

Inference: A decision based on reasoning from evidence that is only hinted at or implied, as in *I made an inference about the child's height when I saw his tall parents.*

Informational text: Text that aims to convey or explain information, such as reference materials and personal narratives

Literary text: Written works, such as novels, poems, and plays

Message: In an informational text, what the writer wants you to remember the most

Metaphor: A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things that are basically different but have something in common; unlike a simile, a metaphor does not contain the words *like* or *as* (*i.e., in the evening of life*)

Mood: The emotional atmosphere expressed by an author in his/her work; the dominant impression of the feelings of the listener, observer, or reader

Narrative text: A story/description of events

Novella: A piece of fiction that is longer than a short story, but shorter than a novel

Onomatopoeia: The use of a word whose sound suggests its meaning (*i.e., buzz*)

Organizational structure/pattern: The way facts and details are arranged in a paragraph or text that help the reader understand the text (*i.e., sequential order, time order, location order, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, similarities/differences*)

Paraphrase: To use your own words to tell what you've read, heard, or seen; paraphrasing is also a strategy that can help you make sense of the information you read

Personification: A form of metaphor in which animals, ideas, things, etc., are represented as having human qualities (*i.e., The drums were weeping today.*)

Perspective: One's view or opinion related to a subject or thing

Plot: The action or sequence of events in a story

Point of view: The author's choice of narrator for a story. This choice determines the amount of information a reader will be given, as well as the angle from which this information will be presented.

Prefix: A word part added to the beginning of a root or base word to create a new meaning (*i.e., regain, incomplete*)

Primary source: An original source, such as someone's diary or journal, a survey or interview, letters, autobiographies, and observations

Print feature: Type of text feature that relates to print, such as font style, color, and size

Rhetorical question: A question to which no answer is expected

Secondary source: A source that contains information that other people have gathered and interpreted, extended, analyzed, or evaluated, such as newspaper articles, a documentary on television, a website, a science text, and an encyclopedia entry

Setting: The physical background, time, and location, against which the action in a story takes place

Sight word: A word that is immediately recognized as a whole word and does not require word analysis for identification

Simile: A figure of speech that makes a comparison of two things that are not alike, usually using the words, *like* or *as* (*i.e., brown as fruitwood, thin as a curve*)

Stanza: A recurring grouping of two or more verse lines in terms of length, metrical form, and rhyme

Strategy: A systematic plan, consciously adapted and monitored, to improve one's performance in learning

Suffix: A word part that is added to the end of a root word (*i.e., darkness*)

Summarize: To restate the main points, or ideas, as well as the most important supporting ideas, of a passage or passages, in condensed form

Synonym: A word that has a meaning identical with, or very similar to, another word in the same language (*i.e., right/correct*)

Synthesize:

To make a new whole out of different parts or elements

Text feature: An important feature of literary and informational text that facilitates understanding for the reader (*i.e., title, illustrations, diagrams, labels, bulleted lists, captions, etc.*)

Theme: In literary text, what the writer wants you to remember the most (larger abstract ideas)

Tone: An author's attitude toward the characters and events in the story

Transition words and phrases:

Words or phrases that serve to change or pass one thought to another (*i.e., however, although, and as a result*)

URL: *Uniform Resource Locator.* WWW uses URLs to find and retrieve the various network resources available at a particular site

Word root:

The main part of a word to which a prefix and/or suffix may be added to make another word, such as actor