

Grade 8 Language Terms

Connections –links that readers can make between what they are reading and things they already know about. There are three types of connections:

1. Text- to-Self: making a link between what you have read and something you have experienced.
2. Text-to-Text: making a link between what you have read and something else you have read before
3. Text-to-World: making a link between what you have read and something that has occurred or is occurring in our world.

Audience: The people for whom a piece of text is written. Authors usually write with a certain audience in mind.

Purpose: the reason behind creating a particular text. The purpose of a text is usually one of the following:

- Persuade
- Inform
- Entertain

Setting – the time, place, and circumstances of a story.

Circumstances - the background information given at the beginning of a story that helps us understand why this character (s) is here in this situation, time and place

Theme – the message or lesson about life that the author wishes to teach us; it is a universal truth.

Conflict – the struggle between two opposing forces or the problem in the story. There are 3 types of conflict:

1. External conflict – character vs. nature (e.g., trying to survive in the wilderness, against an animal or in a storm).
2. Internal conflict – character vs. himself (it's all in his mind; a person may feel guilty, upset, worried etc.)
3. Interpersonal conflict – character vs. another character or characters, (e.g., the character is physically fighting or arguing with someone else or a group).

Plot – what happens in the story; the story-line or plot-line. Parts of the plot are as follows:

- a. Exposition – introduces the characters, setting and background information there is little or no suspense.
- b. Complication – the rising action; the problems get more complicated for the main characters; therefore, the suspense is going up.
- c. Climax – the highest point of suspense; the “turning point” of the story.
- d. Resolution – the falling action; the conflict is ended (resolved) and loose ends are tied up; therefore the suspense is going down.

Character – a person involved in the action of the story. There are 2 types of characters:

1. Major characters – these characters are well-developed and well-rounded and we know them fairly well; they are throughout the story.
2. Minor characters – these characters are flat and we know little about them; they are seen now and then in the story and may not be there throughout the whole story.

Character Trait – a personality trait of a character; it cannot be an emotion.

Point of View – this refers to the narrator of the story (the one that’s telling the story) and is the perspective from which the story is told. There are 2 different kinds or point of view

1. First person Point of View – a character in the story is the narrator. Pronouns such as “I”, “me” or “we” are used.
2. Third Person Point of View – the narrator is not a character in the story; but rather the narrator seems to be on the outside looking in. Pronouns such as, “he”, “she” or “they” are used.

Irony – when the opposite of what you expect to happen actually happens.

Foreshadowing – when the author gives clues to the reader about events that will happen later in the piece of writing.

Simile: a comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as”

Metaphor: a comparison of two unlike things without using the words “like” or “as”

Personification: giving something non-human, human characteristics

Onomatopoeia: when a word is pronounced similar to the sound it makes (“boom” “crash” “kapow” “ruff” “quack”)

Alliteration: the repetition of the initial consonants and/or vowels of three or more words in a sentence (“Sally sells sea shells”)

Literal Meaning: when language means exactly what it says; there is no hidden meaning. (“The man is blue” – literally it means the man is actually the colour blue).

Figurative Meaning: when language is meant to be understood at a deeper level; it does contain a hidden meaning. (“The man is blue” - figuratively it means the man is sad).

Imagery: language that appeals to one or more of the five senses.

Mood: the overall feeling you get when you read a piece of writing.

Suspense: the feeling of uncertainty about what is going to happen next in a piece of writing.