

## Literary vocabulary – Level 1 – 54 words

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english>

**aim** : intention; purpose the purpose for which you do it or the result that it is intended to achieve. /eɪm/

**atmosphere** : the prevailing tone or mood of a novel, symphony, painting or other work of art  
/ˈætməsfiə/

**author** : a flesh and blood person who composes a book, article, or other written work /ˈɔːθə/

**background** : a person's social class, education, training, or experience. The social, historical, or technical circumstances that lead up to or help to explain something /ˈbækgraʊnd/

**biography** : an account of a person's life, written by someone else ; a life story /baɪ ˈɒɡrəfi/

**book** : a number of pieces of paper, usually with words printed on them, which are fastened together and fixed inside a cover of stronger paper or cardboard. /bʊk/

**caricature** : a verbal description which exaggerates or distorts, for comic effect, a person's distinctive physical features or personality traits. /ˈkærɪkətʃə/

**character** : a person represented in a play, film, story. It can be dynamic, static, flat, round, main, major, minor, principal, etc. /ˈkærəktə/

**comparison** : a rhetorical device involving comparison, an examination designed to expose similarities between two objects or ideas. You say that one thing is like another in some way, you make an estimation of similarities and differences /kəm ˈpærɪsn/

**dialogue** : a literary composition / a conversation between two people ; an exchange of opinions on a particular subject;/ the lines spoken by characters in drama or fiction /ˈdaɪəlɒɡ/

**essay** : a short piece of writing on one particular subject written by a student, a short literary composition / a short piece of writing on one particular subject that is written by a writer for publication. /ˈeseɪ/

**extract** : a small part or passage from a book or piece of writing that is printed or published separately. /ˈekstrækt/

**genre** : the type, kind, category of writing that a literary or artistic work falls under: short story, novel, essay, epic, poem, drama, etc. /ˈʒɑːnrə/

**hero** : a man, who has done something brave, new, or good, and who is therefore greatly admired by a lot of people. A person distinguished by exceptional courage, nobility, fortitude. A person who is idealized for possessing superior qualities in any field. /ˈhɪərəʊ/

**irony** : a broad term referring to the recognition of a reality different from appearance; a contrast between expectation and reality /ˈaɪərəni/

**keyword** : a word or phrase that is associated with a particular document or that describes the contents of a particular document, for example, in Internet searches /ˈkiːwɜːd/

**legend** : a popular story handed down from earlier times whose truth has not been ascertained /'ledʒənd /

**literature** : written material such as poetry, novels, essays, etc.,. Works of imagination characterized by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest /'lɪtrətʃə /

**monologue** : a long speech which is spoken by one person, one actor in a play, especially when alone /'mɒnələʒ /

**myth** : a theme or character type embodying an idea; a well-known story which was made up in the past to explain natural events or to justify religious beliefs or social customs /mɪθ /

**narrative** : a story or an account of a series of events usually in a novel. /'nærətɪv /

**narrator** : a person who tells a story or gives an account of something. The voice who "tells" the story in a work ; not to be mistaken for the author. /nə'reɪtə /

**novel** : a long written story about imaginary people and events. An extended work in prose, either fictitious or partly so, dealing with character, action, thought, etc, especially in the form of a story. /'nɒvl /

**novelist** : a flesh and blood person who writes novels (author, writer) /'nɒvəlɪst /

**paragraph** : a section of a piece of writing. It always begins on a new line and contains at least one sentence. It usually deals with a particular point /'pærəgrɑ:f /

**parody** : a humorous piece of writing, drama, or music which imitates the style of a well-known person or represents a familiar situation in an exaggerated way. /'pærədi /

**passage** : a section of a book, speech, or piece of music that you are considering separately from the rest. /'pæsɪdʒ /

**play** : a piece of writing which is performed in a theatre, on the radio, or on television. A dramatic composition written for performance by actors on a stage /pleɪ /

**poem** : a piece of writing in which the words are chosen for their beauty and sound and are carefully arranged, often in short lines which rhymes.(in verse) /'pəʊɪm /

**poetry** : literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm. Literature in metrical form; verse /'pəʊɪtri /

**portrait** : a verbal description of a person, place, or thing. A dramatic portrayal of a person /'pɔ:trɪt /

**protagonist** : the main character in a drama, novel, or story, around whom the action centers. A person who plays a leading or active part /prə'tæɡənɪst/

**quotation** : a sentence or phrase taken from a book, poem, or play, which is repeated by someone else to illustrate succinctly or support a point or an argument. /kwəʊ'teɪʃn /

**reader** : a person who reads, especially one who reads for pleasure. /'ri:də /

**reference** : a word, phrase, or idea which comes from something such as a book, poem, or play and which you use when making a point about something. /'refrəns /

**relationship** : between two people or groups is the way in which they feel and behave towards each other, the way in which they are connected. /rɪ 'leɪʃnʃɪp /

**rhyme** : a word that is identical to another in its terminal sound. A verse or piece of poetry having corresponding sounds at the ends of the lines /raɪm /

**rhythm** : a term used to refer to the recurrence of stressed and unstressed sounds in poetry. /'rɪðəm /

**sentence** : a group of words which begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark, or exclamation mark. It normally contains a subject and a verb. /'sentəns /

**setting** : the time, place, environment, and surrounding circumstances of an event, story, play, etc. / A place and time where characters are placed and events take place /'setɪŋ /

**short story** : a written story about imaginary events that is only a few pages long. A prose narrative of shorter length than the novel, esp one that concentrates on a single theme /ʃɔ:t 'stɔ:ri /

**stanza** : a group of lines forming a unit in a poem ; one of the parts into which a poem is divided. A fixed number of verse lines forming a unit of a poem /'stænzə /

**stereotype** : a conventional and oversimplified opinion or belief about a person or group of people who may share similar characteristics. A fixed idea or conception of a character or an idea often based on religious, social, or racial prejudices. /'sterɪətaɪp /

**story** : the description of imaginary people and events which is written or told in order to entertain /'stɔ:ri /

**subject** : the predominant theme or topic of a book, discussion, etc /'sʌbdʒɪkt /

**summary** : a brief account giving the main points of something. a brief statement covering the substance or main points (digest; abridgment; compendium) /'sʌməri /

**surname** : the name that you share with other members of your family. In English speaking countries and many other countries it is your last name (and not your first name or nickname). /'sɜ:neɪm /

**suspense** : a feeling of tension, anxiety, or excitement resulting from uncertainty about what will happen next in a story. /sə 'spens /

**symbol** : an object, person, idea, etc, used in a literary work to stand for or suggest something else with which it is associated either explicitly or in some more subtle way /'sɪmbəl /

**syntax** : the arrangement of words and the order of grammatical elements in a sentence /'sɪntæks /

**title** : the distinctive name of a work of art, musical, or literary composition /'taɪtl /

**topic** : a particular subject or theme that you discuss or write about (subject, point, question, issue) /'tɒpɪk /

**word** : a single unit of language that can be represented in writing or speech. The smallest isolable meaningful element of the language, (a morpheme for linguists) /wɜ:d /

**writer** : a person who writes books, articles, etc, as an occupation /'raɪtə /