

Literary vocabulary – Level 3 – 58 words

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

allegory : a story in which the characters and their actions represent general truths about human conduct.
/ 'æliɡəri /

alliteration : the use of the same consonant or of a vowel, (not necessarily the same) at the beginning of each word or each stressed syllable in a line of verse, as in 'around the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran'
/ ə.li.tə 'reɪʃn /

anachronism : .assignment of something to a time when it was not in existence / ə 'nækrənɪzəm /

anagram : a word or phrase formed by changing the order of the letters in another word or phrase. For example, 'triangle' is an anagram of 'integral' / 'ænəgræm /

analogy : comparison made between two things to show how they are alike, often an extended metaphor. Drawing a comparison in order to show a similarity in some respect / ə 'nælədʒɪ /

anaphora : the repetition of a word or words at the beginning of successive lines of verse/sentences
-"My life is my purpose. My life is my goal. My life is my inspiration." / ə 'næfərə /

antonym : a word that is the opposite in meaning to another word / 'æntənɪm /

archaism : the adoption or imitation of something extremely old or extremely old-fashioned
/ ɑ: 'keɪzəm /

archetype : typical character, an action or a situation that seems to represent such universal patterns of human nature / 'ɑ:kɪtəp /

assonance : the repetition of a vowel sound within words (ex. rise and shine;down an out) / 'æsənəns /

Bildungsroman : a novel concerned with a person's formative years and development
/ 'bɪl,dʊŋzrɒm,mən /

catharsis : a dramatic, serious or complete action that evokes both fear and pity in the audience and allows the character to experience a "purification" / kə 'θɑ:sɪs /

clue : something that helps to solve a problem or unravel a mystery / klu: /

colloquialism : an expression of language that is appropriate in informal situations but not in formal ones
/ kə 'ləʊkwɪəlɪzəm /

consonance : the repetition of a consonant sound within a series of words to produce a harmonious effect
/ 'kɒnsənəns /

embodiment : personification, example, model, type / ɪm 'bɒdɪmənt /

deus ex machina : the use of some unexpected and improbable incident in a story or play in order to make things turn out right / 'deɪəs ɛks 'mækiːnə /

dialect : a variety of a language that is different from the “norm” in pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary / 'daɪəlekt /

dystopia : an anti-utopian story in which, instead of a paradise, all goes wrong in the attempt to create a perfect society / dɪs'təʊpiə /

ellipsis : a literary device that is used in narratives to omit some parts of a sentence or event. It is usually written between the sentences as "...". / ɪ'lɪpsɪs /

epilogue : a speech, usually in verse, addressed to the audience by an actor at the end of a play / 'epɪlɒɡ /

epiphany : a moment of sudden revelation or insight / ɪ'pɪfəni /

euphemism : an inoffensive, polite expression that is substituted for one that is considered offensive, upsetting or embarrassing / 'ju:fəmɪzəm /

excerpt : a short piece of writing or music which is taken from a larger piece (extract, part, piece, section) / 'eksɜ:t /

extended metaphor : a comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph or lines in a poem / ɪk'stendɪd 'metəfə /

fiction : any story that is the product of imagination rather than a documentation of fact. Characters and events in such narratives may be based in real life but the actual text/story is not completely true / 'fɪkʃn /

focus : the center of interest or attention / 'fəʊkəs /

foil : a character who acts as contrast to another character. Often a funny sidekick to the dashing hero, or a villain contrasting the hero / fɔɪl /

Gothic : relating to a literary style characterized by gloom, the grotesque, and the supernatural, popular especially in the late 18th century / 'gɒθɪk /

hagiography : any biography that idealizes or idolizes its subject / ,hæɡɪ'ɒɡrəfi /

hubris : excessive pride or vanity, especially found within the tragic hero / 'hju:brɪs /

hyperbole : a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to express strong emotion, make a point, or evoke humour. An exaggeration or overstatement for effect / haɪ'pɜ:bəli /

inference : a judgment based on reasoning rather than on a direct or explicit statement. A conclusion based on facts or circumstances; understanding gained by "reading between the lines." / 'ɪnfərəns /

imagery : language that appeals to one or another of the five senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell). Imagery can be created by using particularly vivid adjectives, similes, and metaphors / 'ɪmɪdʒəri /

intertextuality : the relationships or links that may be found among different books or texts / 'ɪntə'tekstju: ælɪti /

issue : an important subject that people are arguing about or discussing (topic, point, matter, problem)
/ 'ɪʃuː /

litotes : a form of understatement in which a thing is affirmed by stating the negative of its opposite ("She was not a little upset") / laɪ'təʊ,tɪːz /

maxim : a rule for good or sensible behaviour, especially one in the form of a saying (saying, motto, adage, proverb) / 'mæksɪm /

metonymy : the substitution of a word referring to an attribute for the thing that is meant, as for example the use of the crown to refer to a monarch. a figure of speech in which the name of one thing is used in place of that of another associated with or suggested by it (Ex.: "the White House" for "the President")
/ mɪ'tɒnɪmɪ /

onomatopoeia : refers to the use of words which sound like the noise they refer to. 'Hiss', 'buzz', and 'rat-a-tat-tat' are examples / ɒnə'mætə'piːə /

oxymoron : combines two opposite qualities or ideas and therefore seems impossible ; two contradictory terms are used in conjunction (thunderous silence, sweet sorrow) / ɒksi'mɔːrɒn /

palindrome : a word or a phrase that is the same whether you read it backwards or forwards, for example the word 'refer'. / 'pælɪndroʊm /

parable : a relatively short story that teaches a moral, or lesson about how to lead a good life. Any of the stories of this kind told by Jesus Christ / 'pærəbl /

pathos : a quality in a situation, film, or play that makes people feel sadness, sorrow and pity / 'peɪθɒs /

plagiarism : copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own / 'pleɪdʒɪərɪzəm /

prosody : the study of sound and rhythm in poetry / 'prɒsədi /

rhetorical question : interrogative statement that is asked for an effect, that does not actually require an answer / rɪ'tɒrɪkl 'kwɛstʃən /

sarcasm : a strong form of verbal irony that is calculated to hurt someone through, for example false praise. Use of irony to show distaste / 'sɑːkæzəm /

slang : words, expressions and meanings that are informal and are used by people who know each other very well or who have the same interests. Vernacular speech, not suitable for formal usage; (colloquialisms, jargon, idioms, argot) / slæŋ /

soliloquy : a dramatic convention by means of which a character, alone onstage, utters his or her thoughts aloud : contrary to a monologue, the speaker is only talking to himself or herself (Hamlet's to be or not to be) / sə'lɪləkwɪ /

stage direction : a playwright's written instructions provided in the text of a play about the setting or how the actors are to move and behave in a play. / 'stɛrdʒ dɪ'rekʃn /

symbolism : a device in literature where an object represents an idea. / 'sɪmbəlɪzəm /

synecdoche : a figure of speech in which a part represents the whole (the hand being the artist, wheels is the car) / A kind of metaphor in which a part of something is used to signify the whole / sɪn'ɛkdəki /

twist : in a novel, play, etc. an unexpected event, revelation, or other significant development / twist /

verisimilitude : the quality in a story that would cause a reader to either believe that the story is true or could be true because it has the semblance of reality / verɪsɪ'mɪlɪtju:d /

synopsis : a brief summary that gives audiences an idea of what a composition is about. It provides an overview of the storyline or main points and other defining factors of the work, which may include style, genre, persons or characters of note, setting, and so on / sɪ'nɒpsɪs /

thesis : an argument , an expression of the claim that the writer is trying to support. In an essay, an expression of the main idea or purpose of the piece of writing; the sentence or group of sentences that directly expresses the author's opinion, purpose, meaning, or proposition / θi:sis /

thriller : a genre of literature, film, and television that induces strong feelings of excitement, anxiety, tension, suspense, fear, and other similar emotions in its readers or viewers - in other words, media that thrills the audience (see cliffhanger) / θrɪləʳ /