

Literacy in English



Term	Definition
Sentence	A collection of words that begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. It must stand alone and make sense.
Paragraph	A collection of sentences presented in one chunk which deals with one particular sub-topic or point of the writer's 'argument'.
PARTS OF SPEECH	
Noun	The name of a place, person or thing
Verb	A 'doing word'. The word that describes action
Adjective	Describing word, it qualifies or modifies a noun
Adverb	Describes how an action is done
Pronoun	The word used instead of a noun (I, he, she, we, them, it)
Conjunction	The 'joining word' (and, but, so...)
FIGURES OF SPEECH / FIGURATE LANGUAGE	
Simile	A phrase which compares two things by saying that one thing is LIKE or AS another.
Metaphor	A phrase/word which compares two things by saying one thing IS another.
Personification	Describing an inanimate object with human qualities
Alliteration	Word close to each other that start with the same sound
Onomatopoeia	A word which makes the sound it is describing

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LITERARY TERMS	
Fiction	A made up story
Non-fiction	A true story or information that is factual
Genre	A kind or style of literature, a type or category (e.g. romantic, horror, drama)
Plot	The storyline, main events of a novel, play, film...
Setting	Where and when a story takes place
Character	A person in text – can be main or minor characters
Theme	The idea/message developed in a text
Rhyme	Words whose endings sound the same
Rhythm	Words arranged in patterns to create a 'beat'
PUNCTUATION	
Full stop	Dot which marks the end of a sentence
Exclamation mark	Replacement for a full stop which adds emphasis (eg for shouting, surprise...)
Question mark	Replacement for a full stop to mark a question.
Inverted commas / Speech marks	Used to mark spoken words, a quotation or a title
Dash	Short line mid-sentence to create a pause
Comma	Used for a pause or separate ideas or items in a list
Colon	Introduces a list, explanation or elaboration
Semi-colon	Used list a colon or to create balance or to separate longer items in a list