**Literary Terms to Know**

**Types of Writing**

* Genre - how literature is categorized based on literary conventions
* Short Story - a type of fictional narrative story usually written in prose; often shorter in length and focuses on one event, character, or incident
* Novel - a longer work of fictional prose
* Poetry - a type of literary art form where writers use figurative language and other poetic devices to get the point of their subject across
* Drama - a type of fiction characterized by performance of actors
* Fiction - a type of narrative literature that contains imaginary characters and events
* Non fiction - a type of narrative literature where the characters and events actually happened
* Biography - a type of literature written about someone by another person
* Autobiography - a type of literature written by someone about his or her own life
* Fable - a type of fictional story where the main characters non-humans, such as animals or mythical creatures, but have the qualities of humans
* Science fiction - a type of genre where characters and events are often set in the future where science and technology far surpasses the present
* Tragedy - a type of narrative that often involves human suffering, including death, in the story
* Comedy - a type of story designed for humor or irony

**Parts of a Story**

* Setting - this is where a story takes place in time and location
* Character - protagonist, antagonist, hero/heroine are the people that move the plot along and the reason that many readers stay with a story
* Point of view - this how the story is told by the narrator or author; either first, second, or third person
* Plot - these are the events in the story from the beginning until the end
* Conflict - this important part of a story often prevents the characters from achieving their goals but allows them to grow from the experiences and then continue onward in their journey
* Climax - a very exciting section of the story where the main conflict is resolved
* Resolution - this is how the story ends and happens after the climax
* Theme - is the central idea of the story, which is often abstract (greed, love, coming of age)
* Tone - words used to express how the author feels about the text
* Mood - how the reader feels about the text while reading
* Narrator - is the person who tells the story and can be limited or omniscient

**Literary Devices**

* Allusion - when an author intensionally makes a reference to another work, such as another piece of literature, a piece of artwork, or a time, place or person
* Imagery - words used to evoke pictures in the minds of the readers
* Hyperbole - an exaggeration
* Dialogue - the words that characters speak
* Symbolism - a symbol is a physical object that represents an abstraction
* Irony - words used that often mean something different or the opposite of what they mean
* Flashback - part of a story that happened before the current action which is brought out through characters’ dreams or storytelling
* Foreshadowing - is when the author alludes to upcoming events without directly stating that they will happen
* Suspense - happens when the storyteller or narrator builds excitement in a scene, often prior to the climax
* Repetition - when words, symbols, themes or other parts of the story are used more than once
* Sensory language - descriptive language that attempts to invoke one or more of the the five senses

**Sound Devices**

* Rhyme - when words that sound alike are paired together or near each other
* Rhyme scheme - a repetition of a rhyming pattern
* Alliteration - repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words
* Onomatopoeia - words that represent sounds
* Assonance - repetition of vowel sounds at the beginning of words
* Meter - combinations of accented and unaccented syllables which often form a pattern
* Refrain - pattern of words or phrases that repeats throughout a literary work

**Figurative Language**

* Metaphor - compares two things where one is the other
* Simile - compares two things using like or as
* Personification - this is where animals or inanimate objects are given human qualities
* Idiom - type of phrase where the meanings cannot be inferred by the literal meaning of the words