



# **English Reading Packet**



## What is the theme of a story?

**The theme is the central idea of a work of literature.** It is a common thread or repeated idea that is incorporated throughout a literary work.

**It is the universal moral, message, or life lesson in the story the author wants the reader to learn.** It is a statement about human existence and experiences that is true in the piece of literature as well as real life. It is an idea or concept that is bigger than this one particular fictional work.

**Non-Example:** Simba had to return to his kingdom and rule.

**Example:** People should live up to their responsibilities because other people depend on them.

**A theme should be expressed in a reader's own language.**

**A theme is not a cliché! (Ex: "Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder," "Don't judge a book by its cover," "Curiosity killed the cat," etc.)**

## How do authors develop theme? (How can a reader identify the theme?)

The author utilizes the characters, plot, and other literary devices to assist the reader in determining the theme.

1. Look at the main character(s). Do they change in some way as a result of the circumstances in the story? Is this change good or bad?
  - a. If the change in a character is good, then a reader can conclude that this is something the author wants the reader to do or believe. Perhaps a theme can be derived from this.
  - b. If the change in the character is a bad thing, then the reader can conclude the author wants the reader to do the opposite or heed the warning of this character. Perhaps a theme can be derived from this.
2. Think about the character as a symbol. If the main character is a symbol for humankind what then is the author saying about humankind through the character? This could then be made into a theme.
3. Keep in mind that sometimes themes are explicitly stated in the text. Sometimes an author will have a character state the theme which they are trying to convey. This often occurs near the end of the piece of literature or it is told to the reader by a "wise" character.
4. Examine the title and look for clues. Often the title will have a hint (as long as it is not just a name of a person or place) as to what the theme may be.
5. Look at the main conflict. What forces are pitted against one another? Who wins? Why? (not the specific characters but the bigger issue or people who are involved in the struggle)
6. Examine the climax of the story. How was the conflict resolved in the climactic scene? What happens to the main character in the climax?
7. What symbols does the author use? How do they relate to the story and issues presented in the text?
8. What general idea or topic is this story/poem about? What is the thematic subject of this piece? Using this thematic subject write a statement that expresses an opinion regarding this subject you feel this piece illustrates.

## Theme (continued)

### Is there only one theme in a piece of literature?

Literary works can contain more than one theme; however, an author writes with a purpose, therefore, each piece of literature has a theme(s) which the author intends. However, each person approaches a piece of literature with their own personal experiences, and these can influence a reading of a text and the interpretation of the theme(s).

However, a theme **MUST** be supported in the text itself. Therefore, if a reader can support a theme using accurate contextual support from the text and accurate analysis of that contextual support then there really is no wrong answer for theme. Although no theme is wrong if **supported by accurate contextual evidence**, there may be one or more themes that are more generally accepted as true for a particular piece of literature. This is especially true for famous or classic pieces of literature which have been read and analyzed by critics for years.

### What is the difference between a thematic subject and a theme (statement)?

1. **Thematic Subject:** a single word or idea that encapsulates the purpose or idea presented in the text. These are not really themes they are subjects from which the theme is derived.
2. **Thematic Statement:** a statement written in a complete sentence which indicates the truth about human life that the piece is illustrating. This statement should NOT contain specific character or plot references. **A theme is a debatable opinion about a topic or issue presented in the text and not just a single word or idea the text addresses.**

Example:

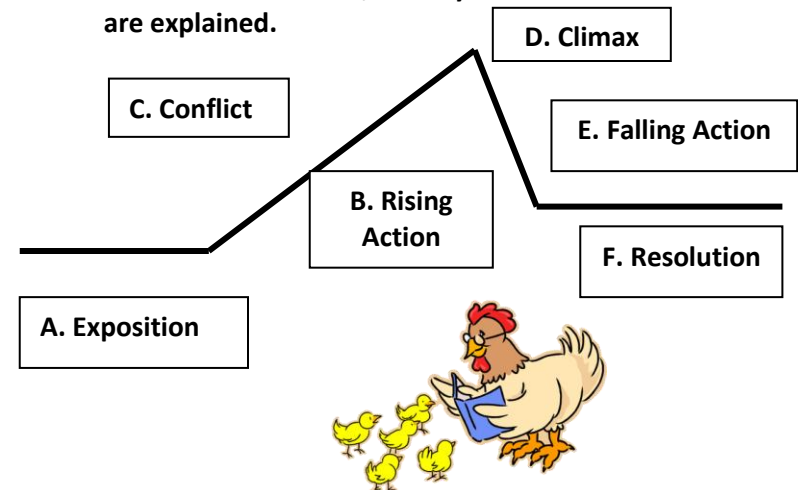
Love (thematic subject)

Obsessive love can lead to destruction even death. (theme)

## Narrative Plot Line

**Plot-** Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story. Every plot is made up of a series of incidents that are related to one another.

- **Exposition**-This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).
- **Rising Action**-This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs.
- **Conflict** – The central struggle in a text. See information on the opposite page for more details.
- **Climax**-This is the turning point of the story. At this point the *main conflict* of the story is resolved and nothing can go back the way it was. The main character will change in some way.
- **Falling Action**- The action that immediately follows the climax. All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The effects of the climax are made clear.
- **Resolution**-The story comes to a reasonable ending. Other conflicts are resolved, and mysteries connected with the plot are explained.



## Conflict in Literature

**Conflict** – Conflict is the struggle between two opposing forces (this is usually revealed during the rising action of the plot)

### Types of Conflict:

**External Conflict-** Occurs between a character and an OUTSIDE force such as:

- Character vs. Character - Another person
- Character vs. Society - Society in general
- Character vs. Nature - An aspect the natural world
- Character vs. Technology - A technological advancement
- Character vs. Environment – A circumstance or situation
- Character vs. God - God

**Internal Conflict-** Occurs within a character. Exists when a character has an inner struggle within their own mind or self.

- Character vs. Self - Dealing with opposing thoughts and feelings, struggling with feelings or desires, or making a difficult decision



## Connotation vs. Denotation

**Denotation:** The literal or “dictionary” definition of a word.

**Connotation:** All the emotions and associations that a word or phrase may arouse.

Advertisers are especially sensitive to the connotation of words. For example, you’d probably never find a section of a department store called “Cheap Clothes”; it would more likely be called “Bargain Basement.”

### Springtime

(Denotation): season of the year, includes the months of March, April and May

(Connotation): also causes people to think of youth, rebirth, and romance

### Shroud

(Denotation): cloth used for burial purposes or anything that covers or protects.

(Connotation): associated with death, gloom, darkness and other unpleasant things

### Cuisine

(Denotation): prepared food

(Connotation): associated with elegance and sophistication (versus “cooking”)

**Notice the difference in denotation between the following pairs of words:**

Young/immature

Ambitious/cutthroat

Uninhibited/shameless

In each pair, the second word carries unfavorable connotations that the first word does not.



## Types of Characters

### Character's Development or Growth

**Dynamic character** - a character who grows or changes during the course of the text. This means that their *character traits* change, not only their physical traits.

**Static character** - a character who remains the same throughout the text despite events that occur. Although their physical traits may change drastically, their personality remains the same.

### Character's Personality Development

**Round Characters** - A round character is a major character in a work of fiction who encounters conflict and is changed by it. Round characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or static, characters.

**Flat Character** - A flat character is a minor character in a work of fiction who does not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. Also referred to as "two-dimensional characters." Flat characters play a supporting role to the main character, who as a rule should be round.

**Stock Character** - a stereotypical character; they have no depth or unique character traits they are just stereotypes of a particular person or group (i.e. wicked stepmother, jock, nerd, etc.)

**Foil Character** - a character who serves as a contrast to another character

### Character's Involvement in the Conflict

**Protagonist** - the central character; the one who experiences the conflict

**Antagonist** - whatever force the protagonist struggles with, such as another character, environment, or something within the protagonist



## Characterization

There are two ways in which an author creates characterization (the act of creating or developing a character) of a character.

**I. Direct Characterization** - the author tells you flat out what the character is like.

Ex: Robert is cold-hearted  
Molly is manipulative  
Rainsford is an expert hunter.

**II. Indirect Characterization** - the author uses methods that make the reader deduce what the character is like from hints in the text.

- **Appearance** - what they wear, look like, and how they are groomed
- **Speech** - what they say, what language they use, how the character talks, speech patterns, and other characters' reaction to the character's speech
- **Thought and feelings** - what the character thinks about and feels in specific circumstances
- **Effect on Others** - How do others act and react towards this character? What do they say about this character?
- **Actions** - what does the character do? How do they behave? How do they treat others?

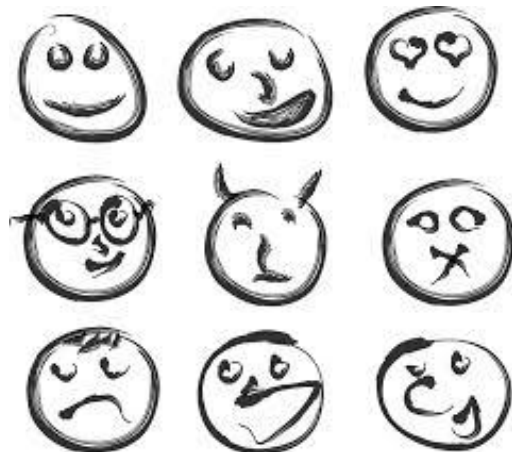
EX: Doodle tells fantastic stories to his mother therefore we can conclude that Doodle is imaginative.

## Mood

**Mood** = The atmosphere that pervades a literary work with the intention of evoking a certain emotion or feeling from the audience; **the feelings/emotions the author evokes in the reader while reading**

### What techniques do authors use to create mood?

- Description of the setting (time, season, location, weather, etc.)
- Descriptions and use of sensory details
  - sight, sound, smell, touch, taste
- Author's word choice and sentence structure
- Character's inner thoughts, feelings, and dialogue
- Character's actions and reactions in the piece
- Motifs, symbols, allusions, imagery, etc.



## Author's Purpose

**Author's purpose is the reason why authors write something.** Below are listed several of the common purposes for writing.



### Main Purpose

### Sub-Purposes to Writing

<b>Entertain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>amuse</b> and to delight</li> <li>• To arouse emotions and sympathies</li> <li>• To appeal to fantasy and imagination</li> </ul>
<b>Persuade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise questions</li> <li>• To <b>criticize</b> the actions of others; to reprimand</li> <li>• To weaken the support of opponents</li> <li>• To <b>persuade</b> to act, vote, donate, etc.</li> <li>• To inform of issues of concern</li> <li>• To argue a point of concern</li> <li>• To persuade others of the correctness of certain views</li> </ul>
<b>Support or Explain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To state one's beliefs; to <b>take a stand</b></li> <li>• To repeat the accepted beliefs of a group; to <b>encourage and reinforce these beliefs</b></li> <li>• To share recent developments and events that are of mutual concern</li> <li>• To gain tolerance for one's beliefs in the wider community</li> <li>• To gain approval</li> </ul>
<b>Conduct Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>circulate</b> laws, regulations, guidelines</li> <li>• To report information needed for making new decisions, laws, policies</li> <li>• To <b>request</b>, propose the use of, or keep track of funds</li> <li>• To report on accomplishments</li> <li>• To sell, advertise, and evaluate</li> </ul>
<b>Inform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide <b>practical information</b> for everyday use</li> <li>• To provide an introduction to an area of knowledge</li> <li>• To <b>instruct</b></li> <li>• To inform an audience about information, ideas, or concepts</li> </ul>
<b>Share Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>present new findings</b>, recent information, the results of experiments</li> <li>• To present new interpretations, speculations, thoughts</li> <li>• To gather together all that is currently known on a subject to see how it fits together</li> </ul>
<b>Compare Or Contrast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To show the <b>similarities</b> between subjects, ideas, and issues</li> <li>• To show the <b>differences</b> between subjects, ideas, and issues</li> <li>• To illustrate how subjects, ideas, and issues are related through comparison</li> </ul>

**Tone can either be an author's attitude toward a subject or tone can be used to designate the mood of the work itself.**

When examining a text for tone, look at the following areas:

- **Diction** (choice of words, phrases, sentence structure, and even figurative language, which give regards to clarity and accuracy)

**When analyzing diction, consider such questions as:**

- \* Is the language **concrete** or **abstract**, **verbs active** or **passive**?
- \* Are the words **monosyllabic** (single syllable) or **polysyllabic** (multiple syllables)?
- \* Do the words have interesting or unusual **connotations**?
  - **Connotation**- the implied or emotional meaning of a word apart from its literal (direct, non-exaggerated, factual) definition
  - **Denotation** - the dictionary (literal) definition of a word with no embellishment or emotional attachment to it
- \* Is the diction **formal**, **informal**, **colloquial** (regional language), **slang**, etc?
- \* Is there any **change in the level** of diction in the passage?

- **Syntax** (sentence structure; the arrangement of words in a sentence)

**When analyzing syntax, consider such questions as:**

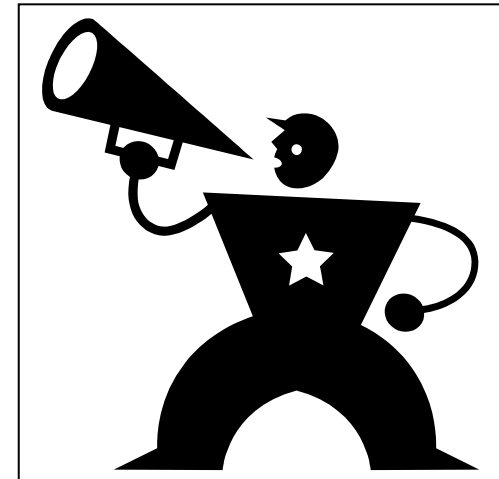
- \* Are the sentences **simple** and direct, or **complex** and complicated?
- \* How do **dependent clauses** relate to **main clauses**?
- \* Does the author use **repetition** or **parallel structure** for emphasis?
- \* Are there **rhetorical questions** in the passage?

- **Imagery/Figurative Language**

**When discussing figures of speech, consider such questions as:**

- \* Are there interesting **images** or **patterns of imagery** (word pictures) in the passage?
- \* Does the author create **analogies**, like **similes** and **metaphors**, or broader comparisons?
- \* Does the author make use of **personification** or **apostrophe** (addressing of a usually absent person or personified thing)?
- \* Is there deliberate **hyperbole** or **understatement** in the passage?
- \* Does the author employ **paradox** or **oxymoron** to add complexity?
- \* What part do rhythm and sound devices like **assonance**, **consonance**, **alliteration**, or **onomatopoeia** play in the passage?

- **Symbolism** (What symbols are used? Are they traditional symbols or are they specific to text?)
- **Punctuation** (How is the passage punctuated? What is the effect of punctuation?)
- **Repetition** (Are any themes, words, phrases repeated? What is being repeated? What is the effect of this repetition?)





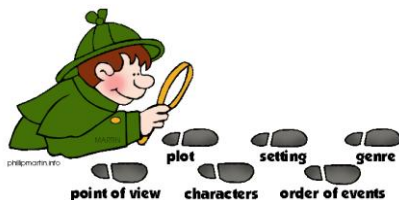
# Poetic Terms and Literary Devices

## Definitions

Literary Term	Definition
<b>Figurative Language</b>	is <b>language</b> that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation such as imagery, similes, metaphors, symbols, personification, allusions, etc.
<b>Stanza</b>	group of lines in a poem that forms a metrical or thematic unit
<b>Refrain</b>	a stanza, line, part of a line, or phrase, which is repeated verbatim, usually at regular intervals throughout a poem
<b>Monologue</b>	a type of poem that consists of a single speaker talking to one or more unseen listeners and often revealing more about the speaker than he or she seems to intend
<b>Alliteration</b>	repetition of initial sounds in a series of words
<b>Onomatopoeia</b>	word whose sound resembles what it describe
<b>Personification</b>	attributing of human qualities to things that are not human
<b>Image (imagery)</b>	sensory details or images often arranged in patterns to describe, arouse emotions, or represent abstractions. Imagery can also be “mental pictures” which are experienced by the reader.
<b>Metaphor</b>	concise form of comparison NOT using the words like or as equating two things that may seem at first dissimilar
<b>Sensory Details</b>	details in a description that make the reader understand what the described thing looks like, tastes like, smells like, feels, and sounds like. (usually adjectives and adverbs)
<b>Simile</b>	comparison of two seemingly unlike things using the words like or as
<b>Parallelism</b>	the repetition of the same grammatical structure in a line(s) of poetry or a poem
<b>Repetition</b>	the repeating of words, phrases, lines, or stanzas
<b>Symbol</b>	is using an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning
<b>Allusion</b>	a <b>specific</b> reference to another piece of literature, historical event or person, pop culture, mythology, or the Bible, etc., that is unexplained in the text, but the author expects the reader to recognize and understand the implications of it being mentioned in the text
<b>Mood</b>	the sense of a pervading atmosphere or feeling created by the author in a text that is intended to influence the readers' emotional response
<b>Tone</b>	is the attitude a writer takes towards a subject or character
<b>Rhyme scheme</b>	is a pattern or sequence in which rhyme occurs (abab)
<b>Internal rhyme</b>	is rhyming within a line
<b>End rhyme</b>	is rhyming that occurs at the end of two or more lines of verse
<b>Narrator</b>	The person telling a story in a fictional piece (The narrator is <b>not</b> necessarily the author – the author is ONLY the narrator in an autobiography)
<b>Speaker</b>	The voice behind the poem – the person the reader imagines is speaking in the poem (The speaker is NOT the poet. Even if the poem is biographical, readers should treat the speaker as a fictional creation, because the writer is choosing what to say about herself/himself.)

## Other Literary Terms

Literary Term	Definition of Term
<b>Dialect</b>	Using a certain regional language to portray a character.
<b>Irony</b>	A contrast between expectation and reality.
<b>Dramatic Irony</b>	A situation in a literary work when the reader understands more than the characters--some of the characters are in a state of ignorance.
<b>Situational Irony</b>	An outcome which is opposite of what is expected.
<b>Verbal Irony</b>	Saying the opposite of what is intended.
<b>Flashback</b>	A scene that returns to events in the past.
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	A hint about what is going to happen that is fully understood only in retrospect after the reader discovers more information later in the plot.



## Other Literary Terms

Literary Term	Definition of Term
<b>Imagery</b>	Language that appeals to the senses. - Touch - Taste - Sight - Sound - Smell
<b>Suspense</b>	Anticipation regarding an outcome.
<b>Point of View</b>	The perspective from which the story is told.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Person Point of View</b>	A story told from the "I" point of view using words such as "we" and "I" in the text.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Person Limited Point of View</b>	The narrator sees into <u>one</u> (major or minor) character's thoughts and feelings.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Person Omniscient Point of View</b>	The story is told from the "he, she, and they" point of view that sees into different characters. It is like a god-like narrator who sees and knows all characters' thoughts and feelings.



Genres	Types or categories of literature	
Literary Term	Definition	Example
<b>Fiction</b>	Writing that is invented material and does not claim to be factually true	<i>The Giver</i> and the myths we read this year “The Creation Story” are examples of fiction.
<b>Nonfiction</b>	Writing that deals with real people, events and places	Personal diaries and letters fall into the area of nonfiction <i>Night</i> is an example of nonfiction – it retells real events that happened to Elie Wiesel
<b>Novel</b>	A work of fiction that is longer and more complex than a short story. Setting, plot, and characters are usually developed in great detail.	<i>Ender’s Game</i> , <i>Lord of the Flies</i> and <i>The Giver</i> are all examples of novels.
<b>Drama</b>	A story that is written to be acted out in front of an audience	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> are examples of dramas.
<b>Prose</b>	The ordinary form of spoken and written language; that is, language that lacks the special features of poetry	Any piece of literature that is written in sentences rather than lines (e.g. essays, articles, stories, etc.)
<b>Poetry</b>	A kind of rhythmic, compressed language that uses figures of speech and imagery designed to appeal to our emotions and imagination	<i>The Odyssey</i> is an epic poem that we read this year.
<b>Satire</b>	A type of writing that makes fun of human weakness in order to bring about social reform	Some consider <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> to be a satire about the role of women in society. <i>The Daily Show</i> and <i>Saturday Night Live</i> are examples of Satire on TV.
<b>Essay</b>	A short piece of nonfiction that examines one subject from a limited point of view (an essay usually includes the writer’s thoughts or reasoning)	Essays are written to inform or persuade and they are expected to be factual, logical and well organized.
<b>Article</b>	A nonfiction composition usually dealing with a single topic (an article is usually part of a larger work like a newspaper or magazine)	An article on winter sports would not discuss warm weather activities. We have read articles about Ancient Greek Religions and Elizabethan Wedding Customs this year.
<b>Memoir</b>	A story of personal experience	<i>Night</i> is a memoir written by Elie Wiesel about his experience in the Holocaust.
<b>Autobiography</b>	An account of a person’s own life	Autobiographies are believable because they are written by the person who directly had the experience.
<b>Biography</b>	An account of a person’s life written or told by another person	<i>The Life Of Julius Caesar</i> is a biography because it was written by Plutarch, not Julius Caesar.

Informational Reading	Texts that communicate information and data	
Main idea	The writer's most important point, opinion, or message	The main idea may be stated directly, or it may only be suggested or implied. If the main idea is not stated directly, it's up to you to look at the details and decide on the main idea.
Supporting Details	Specific information, examples, and facts that help a reader better understand the main idea of a piece of writing and make an argument believable	All of the details and specifics that help to develop the author's main idea.
Audience	The particular group of readers or viewers that the writer is addressing. A writer considers his or her audience when deciding on a subject, a purpose for writing, and the tone and style in which to write.	When you write essays in class, your audience is the teacher. When you write for the Keystone Exam, your audience will be English teachers from all over Pennsylvania. When you write a post on your Myspace page, your audience is your friends.
Argument	A statement, reason, or fact for or against a point; this is what a writer tries to prove in an essay, especially in a persuasive essay.	In the recent political campaign, many reporters wrote editorials: in some, the argument was that Americans should vote for the Democratic candidate, while in others, the argument was that Americans should vote for the Republican candidate.
Evidence	Details that support your claims and make you appear credible	Evidence, being factual and verifiable, can prove a writer or speaker's point. In an editorial arguing that Americans should vote for a certain candidate, their experience and stance on important issues would count as evidence for the author's argument.
Thesis Statement	The central idea of an essay. The thesis is a complete sentence that establishes the topic of the essay in clear, unambiguous language.	Always include the limited subject, debatable assertion, and blueprint for your argument.
Synthesize	To combine information from a variety of sources	When we studied the <i>Odyssey</i> , we read several articles about life in ancient Greece, then we synthesized the ideas to conclude that the characters in the story thought that the gods were the most important part of their lives.
Opinion	Based on facts	An article listing the health benefits of Wheaties as compared to other cereals that relies on lists of ingredients and statistics would be an objective article.
Subjective	Includes a writer's personal feelings and opinions	A letter to the editor in which the writer explains why he or she prefers Wheaties to Rice Krispies would be a piece of subjective writing.
Credible	Believable	<i>Newsweek</i> is a generally more trustworthy or credible, source for news than <i>US Weekly</i> or <i>The National Inquirer</i> .
Reliable	From trustworthy sources	A website published by government agencies or the research department at a college would be more reliable than a high school student's blog.
Context Clues	Hints or suggestions that may surround unfamiliar words or phrases in a piece of writing and clarify their meaning	In the sentence, "When Michael Phelps came out of the water, he knew he had won the gold medal because he was greeted by an uproarious crowd," you know that the word "uproarious" must mean "loud" because of context clues like "Michael Phelps," "won," "gold medal," and "crowd."

## Speech Terms: Rhetorical Strategies

<b>Rhetoric:</b>	the art of public speaking or writing
<b>Rhetorical Device</b>	a technique that an author or speaker uses to convey a meaning to the reader or listener with the goal of persuading him or her towards considering a topic from a different perspective.
<b>Occasion</b>	the event prompting the speech as well as the time and place of speech.
<b>Pathos (Appeal to Emotion)</b>	reaching out to feelings or emotions.
<b>Ethos (Appeal to Ethics or Character)</b>	reaching out to conscience, values, reliability and trust worthiness of an individual or establishing the speaker's credibility as an authority on the subject
<b>Logos (Appeal to Logic or Reason)</b>	reaching out to the mind, intellect, logic or reason
<b>Anaphora</b>	The deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of several successive verses, clauses, or paragraphs. One of the devices of repetition, in which the same phrase is repeated at the beginning of two or more lines.
<b>Antithesis:</b>	two balanced phrases, clauses or sentences with each part containing a contrasting idea ("ask not what your country can do for you-but what you can do for your country." JFK)
<b>Climax Ordering</b>	Stating items in a series and moving from less significant, ending with the most important item ("His behavior is wrong, it is immoral and it is criminal").
<b>Direct Address</b>	calling out a member or members of the audience.
<b>Experience</b>	using the experiences of others or oneself.
<b>Expert Testimony</b>	citing the work of those who have experience in the field.
<b>Historical Allusion</b>	referring to a historical event to support a position (allusions may also be biblical, textual, or may refer to an individual).
<b>Parallelism:</b>	a repetition of phrases, sentences or ideas using an individual (ex.: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...")
<b>Rhetorical Questions</b>	questions not meant to be answered aloud, used to make the audience think.
<b>Repetition:</b>	repeating a word or phrase to emphasize a point or idea.

### *Attention Getting Devices used in Rhetoric*

**Common ground technique:** identifying interests or things the speaker has in common with his or her audience

**Humor:** telling a joke or short, funny incident; not always appropriate depending on the occasion and purpose.

**Short narrative:** telling a brief story that has a natural connection to the topic

**Shock technique:** mentioning an unusual, frightening, or hard-to-believe statement or statistic that is closely related to the topic.

**Suspense:** talking around the topic for a few moments before stating what the purpose, topic, or theme is.

**Rhetorical Questions:** asking a series of interesting rhetorical questions dealing with the topic.

**Question the author:** asking the audience to answer either verbally or by a show of hands.

**Quotation:** Using a thought-provoking quotation to gain audience attention

**Challenge the audience:** directly challenging the audience with a thought provoking or emotionally rousing statements.

# Dramatic Types and Conventions (devices)



**Drama:** A story that is written to be acted out in front of an audience.

**Comedy:** A dramatic work that is light and often humorous in tone and usually ends happily, with a peaceful resolution of the main conflict

**Tragedy:** A dramatic work that presents the downfall of a dignified character or characters who are involved in historically or socially significant events. The events in a tragic plot are set in motion by a decision that is often an error in judgment. Succeeding events inevitably lead to a disastrous conclusion, usually death

**Dramatic Conventions:** Unrealistic devices or procedures that the reader or audience agrees to accept (aside, soliloquy, monologue); the playwright had the freedom to use these conventions in order to make the drama interesting for the audience to see and hear.

**Aside:** Words spoken in a whispered undertone to the audience; the spoken words are not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

**Farce:** A form of comedy designed to provoke laughter through highly exaggerated caricatures of people in improbable or silly situations. Traits of farce include **(1)** physical humor such as slapstick, **(2)** misunderstandings and mix-ups, and **(3)** broad verbal humor such as puns; these things would NEVER happen in real life but they make the audience laugh and that is the purpose

**Induction:** An explanatory scene that stands outside and apart from the main action of the play. The intent is frequently to moralize or summarize the thematic issues the main play will address.

**Monologue:** A lengthy speech delivered by a character in the presence of other characters (Mercutio's Queen Mab speech).

**Prologue:** A spoken introduction to a play which normally summarizes the main action of the play; often spoken by a chorus or a member of the cast.

**Soliloquy:** A lengthy speech spoken by an actor at a point in the play when the character believes himself to be alone. The technique frequently reveals a character's innermost thoughts, including his feelings, state of mind, motives or intentions.

**Stage Directions:** The words, phrases, sentences and even paragraphs, printed in italics and enclosed in parenthesis, through which the playwright indicates what is taking place on the stage and how he wants the characters to speak, feel, or act. Occasionally, he uses stage directions to comment on a character or situation or to suggest the particular mood to be created at that point in the play.

**Narrator:** is one or more performers who speak directly to the audience to tell a story, give information or comment on the action of the scene or the motivations of characters. Characters may narrate, or a performer who is not involved in the action can carry out the role of 'narrator'.

**Tragic Hero:** The main character in a tragedy who shows evidence of high rank and nobility of character, is marred by a tragic flaw or a fatal mistake in judgment, gains self-knowledge and wisdom, and comes to an unhappy end

**Stage Design:** Describes what the stage should look like in order to make the audience believe the story is happening in a specific time and place (includes the set, or background; lighting; costumes; and props - portable items that actors carry or handle onstage in order to perform the actions of the play)