

Summer Literary Terms Assignment

Allegory	Story or poem in which characters, settings, and events stand for other people or events or for abstract ideas or qualities
Alliteration	Repetition of the same or similar consonant sounds in words that are close together
Allusion	Reference to someone or something that is known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science, or another branch of culture. An indirect reference to something(usually from literature, etc.)
Ambiguity	Deliberately suggesting two or more different, and sometimes conflicting, meanings in a work. An event or situation that may be interpreted in more than one way-this is done on purpose by the author, when it is not done on purpose, it is vagueness, and detracts from the work.
Analogy	Comparison made between two things to show how they are alike.
Anaphora	Repetition of a word, phrase, or clause at the beginning of two or more sentences in a row. This is a deliberate form of repetition and helps make the writer's point more coherent
Anastrophe	Inversion of the usual, normal, or logical order of the part of a sentence. Purpose in rhythm or emphasis or euphony. It is a fancy word for inversion.
Anecdote	Brief story, told to illustrate a point or serve as an example or something, often shows character of an individual.
Antagonist	Opponent who struggles against or blocks the hero, or protagonist, in a story.
Antithesis	Balancing words, phrases, or ideas that are strongly contrasted, often by means of grammatical structure.
Antihero	Central character who lacks all the qualities traditionally associated with heroes. May lack courage, grace, intelligence, or moral scruples.
Anthropomorphism	Attributing human characteristics to an animal or inanimate object (personification)
Aphorism	Brief, cleverly worded statement that makes a wise observation about

	life, or of a principle or accepted general truth. Also called maxim, epigram.
Apostrophe	Calling out to an imaginary, dead, or absent person, or to a place or thing, or a personified abstract idea. If the character is asking a god or goddess for inspiration is called an invocation.
Assonance	The repetition of similar vowel sounds followed by different consonant sounds especially in words that are together
Characterization	The process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character
Indirect Characterization	The author reveals to the reader what the character is like by describing how the character looks and dresses, by letting the reader hear what the character says, by revealing the character's private thoughts and feelings, by revealing the character's effect on other people(showing how other characters feel or behave towards the character), or by showing the character in action. Common in modern literature.
Direct Characterization	The author tells us directly what the character is like: sneaky, generous, mean to pets and so on. Romantic style literature relied more heavily on this form.
Static Character	Is one who does not change much in the course of a story.
Dynamic Character	Is one who changes in some important way as a result of the story's action.

Flat Character	Has only one or two personality traits. They are one dimensional, like a piece of cardboard. They can be summed up in one phrase.
Round Character	Has more dimensions to their personalities--they are complex, just as real people are.
Chiasmus	In poetry, a type of rhetorical balance in which the second part is syntactically balanced against the first, but with the parts reversed. Coleridge: "Flowers are lovely, love in flowerlike." in prose this is called antimetabole.
Cliche	Is a word or phrase, often a figure of speech, that has become lifeless because of overuse. Avoid cliches like the plague. (That cliché is intended)
Colloquialism	A word or phrase everyday use in conversation and informal writing

	but is inappropriate for formal situations
Comedy Comedy	In general, a story that ends with a happy resolution of the conflicts faced by the main character or characters.
Conflict	The struggle between opposing forces or characters in a story
External Conflict	Conflicts can exist between two people, between a person and nature or a machine or between a person a whole society.
Internal Conflict	A conflict can be internal, involving opposing forces within a person's mind.
Connotation	The associations and emotional overtones that have become attached to a word or phrase, in addition to its strict dictionary definition.
Couplet	Two consecutive rhyming lines of poetry
Dialect	A way of speaking that is characteristics of a certain social group or of the inhabitants of a certain geographical area.
Diction	A speaker or writer's choice of words.
Didactic	Form of fiction or nonfiction that teaches a specific lesson or moral or provides a model or correct behavior or thinking.
Elegy	A poem of mourning, usually about someone who has died. A eulogy is a great praise or commendation, a laudatory speech, often about someone who has died.
Epic	A long narrative poem, written in heightened language, which recounts the deeds of a heroic character who embodies the value of a particular society.
Epigraph	A quotation or aphorism at the beginning of a literary work suggestive of the theme.
Epistrophe	Device of repetition in which the same expression(single word or phrase) is repeated at the end of two or more lines, clauses, or sentences(it is the opposite or anaphora)
Epithet	An adjective or adjective phrase applied to a person or thing that is frequently used to emphasize a character's quality. "Father of our country" and "the great Emancipator" are examples. A Homeric Epithet is a compound adjective used with a person thing. "Swift-footed Achilles", "rosy-fingered dawn."

Fable	A very short story told in prose or poetry that teaches a practical lesson about how to succeed in life.
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Farce	A type of comedy in which ridiculous and often stereotyped characters are involved in silly, far-fetched situations.
Figurative-Language	Words within are inaccurate if interpreted literally, but are used to describe. Similes and metaphors are common forms.
Flashback	A scene that interrupts the normal chronological sequence of events in a story to depict something that happened at an earlier time.
Foil	A character who acts as contrasts to another character. Often a funny sidekick to the dashing hero, or a villain contrasting the hero.
Foreshadowing	The use of hints and clues to suggest what will happen later in a plot.
Free verse	Poetry that does not conform to a regular meter or rhyme scheme.
Hyperbole	A figure of speech that uses an incredible exaggeration or overstatement, for effect. "If i told you, I've told you a million times...."
Imagery	The use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation or a person, a thing, a place, or an experience.
Inversion	The reversal of the normal word order in a sentence or phrase.
Irony	A discrepancy between appearances and reality.
Verbal Irony	Occurs when someone says one thing but really means something else.
Situational Irony	Takes place when there is a discrepancy between what is expected to happen, or what would be appropriate to happen, and what really does happen.
Dramatic Irony	Is so called because it is often used on stage. A character in the play or story thinks one thing is true, but the audience or reader knows better.
Juxtaposition	Poetic and rhetorical device in which normally unassociated ideas, words, or phrases are placed next to one another, creating an effect of surprise and wit. Also a form of contrast by which writers call attention to dissimilar ideas or images or metaphors.
Litotes	Is a form of understatement in which the positive form is emphasized through the negation of a negative form

Lyrics poem	A poem that does not tell a story but expresses the personal feelings or thoughts of the speaker. A ballad tells a story.
Metaphor	A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things without the use of such specific words of comparison as like, as, than, or resembles.
Implied metaphor	Does not state explicitly the two terms of the comparison: "I like to see it lap the miles" is an implied metaphor in which the verb lap implies a comparison between "it" and some animal that "laps" up water.
Extended metaphor	Is a metaphor that is extended or developed as far as the writer wants to take it. (connects if it is quite elaborate).
Metonymy	A figure of speech in which a person, place, or thing, is referred to by something closely associated with it. "We requested from the crown support for our petition." the crown used to represent the monarch.

Mood	An atmosphere created by a writer's diction and the details selected.
Motif	A recurring image, word, phrase, action, idea, object, or situation used throughout a work (or in several works by one author), unifying the work by tying the current situation to previous ones, or new ideas to the theme.
Motivation	The reasons for a character's behavior
Onomatopoeia	The use of words whose sounds echo their sense. "Pop" "zap."
Oxymoron	A figure of speech that combines opposite or contradictory terms in a brief phrase. "Jumbo shrimp." "pretty ugly." "bitter-sweet"
Parable	A relatively short story that teaches a moral, or lesson about how to lead a good life.
Paradox	A statement that appears self-contradictory, but that reveals a kind of truth.
Parallel structure	(parallelism) the repetition of words or phrases that have similar grammatical structures.
Parody	A work that makes fun of another work by imitating some aspect of the writer's style.
Personification	A figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human feelings, thoughts, or attitudes.

Plot	The series of related events in a story or play, sometimes called the storyline.
Pot: Exposition	Introduces characters, situations, and setting
Plot: Rising Action	Complications in conflict and situations (may introduce new ones as well)
Plot: Climax	That point in a plot that creates the greatest intensity, suspense, or interest. Also called “turning point”
Plot: Resolution	The conclusion of a story, when all or most of the conflicts have been settled; often called the denouement.
Point of view	The vantage point from which the writer tells the story.
First person point of view	One of the characters tells the story.
Third person point of view	An unknown narrator, tells the story, but this narrator zooms in to focus on the thoughts and feelings of only one character.
Omniscient point of view	An omniscient or all knowing narrator tells the story, also during the third person pronouns. This narrator, instead of focusing on one character only, often tells us everything about many characters.
Objective point of view	A narrator who is totally impersonal and objective tells the story, with no comment on any characters or events.

Protagonist	The central character in a story, the one who initiates or drives the action. Usually the hero or anti-hero; in a tragic hero, like John Proctor of <u>The Crucible</u> , there is always a hamartia, or tragic flaw in his character which will lead to his downfall.
Pun	A “play on words” based on the multiple meanings of a single word or on words that sound alike but mean different things.
Quatrain	A poem consisting of four lines, or four lines of a poem that can be considered as a unit.
Refrain	A word, phrase, line, or group of lines that is repeated, for effect, several times in a poem.
Rhythm	A raise and fall of the voice produced by the alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables in language.

Rhetoric	Art of effective communication, especially persuasive discourse.
Rhetorical Question	A question asked for an effect, and not actually requiring an answer.
Romance	In general, a story in which an idealized hero or heroine undertakes a quest and is successful.
Satire	A type of writing that ridicules the shortcomings of people or institutions in an attempt to bring about a change
Simile	A figure of speech that makes an explicit comparison between two unlike things, using words such as like, as, than, or resembles.
Soliloquy	A long speech made by a character in a play while no other characters are on stage.
Stereotype	A fixed idea or conception of a character or an idea which does not allow for any individuality, often based on religious, social, or racial
Style	The distinctive way in which a writer uses language: a writer's distinctive use of diction, tone, and syntax.
Suspense	A feeling of uncertainty and curiosity about what will happen next in a story.
Symbol	A person, place, thing, or event that has meaning in itself and that also stands for something more than itself.
Synecdoche	A figure of speech in which a part represents the whole. "If you don't drive properly, you will lose your wheels." the wheels represent the entire car.
Theme	The insight about human life that is revealed in a literary work.
Tone	The attitude a writer takes toward the subject of a work, the character in it, or the audience, revealed through diction, figurative language, and organization.
Tragedy	In general, a story in which a heroic character either dies or comes to some other unhappy end.
Vernacular	The language spoken by the people who live in a particular locality

SAT Vocabulary Words

	Word	Type	Definition
1	abhor	v	detest, hate
2	abridge	v	shorten, condense, reduce
3	acclaim	v	approval, praise
4	accoutrements	n	equipment, provisions
5	adept	adj	skilled at
6	adroit	adj	skillful, adept
7	adulation	n	praise, respect, worship
8	adversity	n	misfortune, hardship
9	aesthetic	adj	artistic, beautiful, elegant
10	affable	adj	friendly, kind
11	ambiguous	adj	unclear, confusing
12	ambivalent	adj	undecided
13	ambivalent	adj	undecided, unsure
14	ameliorate	v	improve, make positive strides
15	amiable	adj	friendly, agreeable
16	amicable	adj	friendly
17	anachronistic	adj	misdated, having an error in time
18	antagonistic	adj	hostile, opposed
19	apathy	n	not caring
20	ardor	adj	passion, dedication
21	arrogant	adj	insulting, overconfident
22	articulate	adj	well-spoken, ability to speak well
23	assiduous	adj	hard-working, tireless
24	astute	adj	mentally sharp, skilled
25	audacious	adj	bold, daring, unafraid
26	augment	v	add to, increase
27	aversion	n	hatred, dislike
28	belligerent	adj	hostile, harsh
29	benevolent	adj	generous
30	benevolent	adj	kind, generous
31	benign	adj	harmless, mild

32	berate	v	yell at, scold
33	bereft	adj	without, deprived of
34	candor	n	honesty, truthfulness
35	capricious	adj	indecisive, fickle
36	carping	adj	finding fault in something
37	castigate	v	to punish
38	castigate	v	criticize, chastise, condemn
39	caustic	adj	harsh, bitter, severe
40	censure	v	criticize, reprimand, blame
41	charlatan	n	phony, fraud, imposter
42	circumspect	adj	careful, cautious
43	cogent	adj	logical, rational, convincing
44	coherent	adj	clear, easy to understand
45	compliant	adj	agreeable, yielding, submissive
46	conciliatory	adj	always giving in, making peace
47	concise	adj	brief, to the point
48	confounded	v	confused
49	congenial	adj	pleasant
50	contempt	n	defiance
51	conundrum	n	riddle, problem
52	convoluted	adj	intricate, involved
53	cordial	adj	gracious, kind
54	crass	adj	crude, unrefined, having bad manners
55	curtail	v	shorten, reduce
56	dearth	n	scarcity, shortage
57	decorous	adj	proper, polite, well-mannered
58	decry	v	degrade, humiliate
59	demonstrative	adj	characterized by the open expression of emotion
60	denigrate	v	to put down verbally, criticize
61	destitute	adj	extremely poor
62	devious	adj	sneaky, tricky



SAT Vocabulary Words

63	digress	v	to stray away from a main topic in writing or speaking
64	dilemma	n	difficulty, difficult situation
65	diligent	adj	hard-working
66	disavow	v	to deny knowledge or responsibility of
67	discern	v	be aware, detect, comprehend
68	discerning	adj	observant, having an awareness of
69	discretion	n	cautious, having good judgment
70	disparage	v	belittle, show disrespect for, say unkind things about
71	disreputable	adj	shameful, disgraceful
72	divisive	adj	creating division or separation
73	dogged	adj	stubborn, persistent
74	dogmatic	adj	stubborn, absolutely sure
75	dubious	adj	doubtful, skeptical, questionable
76	dupe	v	to deceive a person
77	eccentric	adj	odd, strange
78	ecstatic	adj	very happy
79	elated	adj	overjoyed, very happy
80	eloquent	adj	well-spoken
81	embellish	v	to make beautiful by decorating; to add fictitious details to a story
82	emulate	v	try to be like, imitate
83	enervated	v	exhausted, weakened
84	enervating	adj	exhausting
85	enhance	v	improve
86	enigma	n	puzzle
87	enigmatic	adj	puzzling, strange
88	enmity	n	hatred, dislike
89	ephemeral	adj	existing for a short time, fleeting
90	eradicate	v	erase, remove
91	erratic	adj	odd, inconsistent
92	erroneous	adj	mistaken, derived from error

93	euphoric	adj	happy, overjoyed
94	evanescent	adj	fleeting, passing, short-lived
95	exacerbate	v	make something worse, anger, incite
96	extol	v	to praise highly
97	extravagant	adj	excessive, extreme
98	extroverted	adj	outgoing, sociable
99	fastidious	adj	meticulous, fussy
100	fervent	adj	passionate, intense
101	fickle	adj	indecisive
102	florid	adj	showy, ornate
103	flourish	v	thrive, bloom grow
104	fortuitous	adj	lucky, happening by chance in a positive way
105	frivolous	adj	unimportant
106	frugal	adj	thrifty, cheap, not spending much
107	galvanize	v	stimulate, energize, stir up
108	genial	adj	kind, pleasant
109	gregarious	adj	outgoing, sociable
110	hackneyed	adj	over familiar due to overuse; trite
111	haughty	adj	arrogant, overbearing
112	hedonist	n	one who is devoted to seeking pleasure
113	heinous	adj	horrible, disgusting
114	humble	adj	simple, modest
115	impetuous	adj	hasty
116	innocuous	adj	harmless, having no adverse effects
117	insipid	adj	dull, uninteresting, boring
118	insolent	adj	rude, disrespectful, snobby
119	interminable	adj	endless
120	intransigent	adj	stubborn
121	intrepid	adj	brave, fearless
122	introverted	v	shy, keeping to yourself
123	invigorated	v	energized



SAT Vocabulary Words

124	irreproachable	adj	unable to blame, innocent	153	penitent	adj	being sorry for what you did, contrite
125	irresolute	adj	undecided, uncertain	154	penurious	adj	stingy, cheap
126	labyrinth	n	maze	155	peripheral	adj	not central, not very important
127	lavish	adj	extravagant, overly generous	156	perplexed	v	confused
128	loathing	n	hatred, disgust	157	perseverant	adj	determined to finish, not to give up
129	lucid	adj	clear, logical, thought through	158	persevered	v	held on, endured, kept at it
130	machinations	n	schemes, plots	159	perspective	adj	aware of
131	maxim	n	a general truth or principle; adage or saying	160	perspicacious	adj	mentally insightful, wise, shrewd
132	meager	adj	poor, insufficient	161	philanthropist	n	generous person
133	meticulous	adj	very careful, paying attention to details	162	placid	adj	peaceful, calm
134	misanthrope	n	anti-social person	163	poignant	adj	profoundly moving or touching
135	mitigate	v	ease, soothe, soften	164	pompous	adj	arrogant
136	morose	adj	gloomy, sad	165	pretentious	adj	showy, conceited
137	munificent	adj	generous	166	prodigy	n	one with exceptional talents or powers
138	naïve	adj	simple, inexperienced	167	profound	adj	great, intense
139	naïve	adj	simple-minded, trusting	168	prudent	adj	careful, wise
140	notorious	adj	well-known, usually for a bad quality or reason	169	pugnacious	adj	hostile, harsh, wanting to fight
141	obdurate	adj	stubborn	170	punctilious	adj	exact, strict, formal
142	obscure	adj	clouded, vague	171	quandary	n	a state of perplexity or uncertainty; a predicament
143	obstinate	adj	stubborn	172	querulous	adj	inclined to complain
144	obtuse	adj	simple-minded, stupid	173	raconteur	n	storyteller, narrator
145	ominous	adj	threatening	174	radiant	adj	beaming, shining, beautiful
146	opulent	adj	wealthy, rich, luxurious	175	ravenous	adj	hungry, starving
147	ornate	adj	very fancy, decorated	176	recluse	n	loner, hermit
148	ostentatious	adj	showy, flaunting	177	reclusive	adj	living or being alone
149	pacific	adj	peaceful, calm	178	refined	adj	polite, well-bred
150	pallid	adj	lacking color, pale	179	reproach	v	blame, scold
151	paragon	n	model of excellence, shining example	180	reputable	adj	respectable, honorable
152	parsimony	n	stingy, frugal	181	resolute	adj	determined
				182	resolution	n	a course of action decided upon



SAT Vocabulary Words

183	revelry	n	partying, merry-making
184	revere	v	respect a great deal, to honor
185	reverence	n	respect
186	sagacious	adj	wise, shrewd
187	sanguine	adj	optimistic, cheerful
188	scrupulous	adj	conscientious, careful, rigorous
189	serene	adj	peaceful, calm
190	skeptical	adj	doubtful, questionable
191	smug	adj	arrogant, snobby
192	somber	adj	gloomy, sad
193	spurious	adj	false, bogus, fake
194	squelch	v	silence, suppress, quiet
195	steadfast	adj	loyal, faithful
196	stingy	adj	cheap, not generous
197	stoic	adj	unemotional, indifferent
198	succinct	adj	brief, to the point
199	succumb	v	to give in or to give up, yield
200	sullen	adj	gloomy, sad, down in the dumps
201	supplant	v	to substitute for another, displace
202	surfeited	v	excess, extra
203	surplus	n	extra amount, oversupply
204	surreptitious	adj	secret, sneaky
205	tactful	adj	diplomatic, courteous
206	tenacious	adj	stubborn, determined, persistent
207	tenacity	n	determination, drive
208	terse	adj	short, brief
209	theatrical	adj	emotional, dramatic
210	timid	adj	shy, bashful
211	tranquil	adj	peaceful, calm
212	transient	adj	temporary, staying for a short time
213	trivial	adj	unimportant

214	undermine	v	weaken
215	unscrupulous	adj	dishonest
216	untenable	adj	undefendable
217	utopian	adj	ideal, perfect
218	vacillating	adj	showing indecision
219	venerated	v	respected, admired
220	vignette	n	a short writing, usually very descriptive
221	vilify	v	degrade, slander
222	virtuoso	n	an expert
223	virulent	adj	extremely infectious or poisonous
224	vitriolic	adj	overly critical, scathing
225	wane	v	decrease, subside
226	wavered	v	fluctuated, shifted
227	wax	adj	increase, grow
228	zeal	n	passion, enthusiasm
229	zealous	adj	eager, enthusiastic