

Lecture 2

English Literary Terms

01





1. Allegory: an allegory is a narrative in which the characters often stand for abstract concepts. An allegory generally teaches a lesson by means of an interesting story. The Tempest by William Shakespeare.





2. Alliteration: the repetition at close intervals of consonant sounds for a purpose. For example: wailing in the winter wind. [BCS-37]





3. Allusion: a reference to something in literature, history, mythology, religious texts, etc., considered common knowledge.





4. Ambiguity: Double or even multiple meaning.





5. Analogy: A point by point comparison between two dissimilar things for the purpose of a completely different explanatory meaning





6. Antagonist: the character or force that opposes the protagonist. (It can be a character, an animal, a force, or a weakness of the character.)





7. Apostrophe: the device, usually in poetry, of calling out to an imaginary, dead, or absent person, or to a place, thing, or personified abstraction either to begin a poem or to make a dramatic break in thought somewhere within the poem.




8. Assonance: the repetition at close intervals of vowel sounds for a purpose. For example: mad as a hatter.





9. Ballad: a narrative poem that was originally meant to be sung. Ballads are generally about ordinary people who have unusual adventures, with a single tragic incident as the central focus. They contain dialogue and repetition, and imply more than they actually tell.





10. Cacophony: Harsh, clashing, or dissonant sounds, often produced by combinations of words that require a clipped, explosive delivery, or words that contain a number of plosive consonants such as b, d, g, k, p, and t; the opposite of EUPHONY.



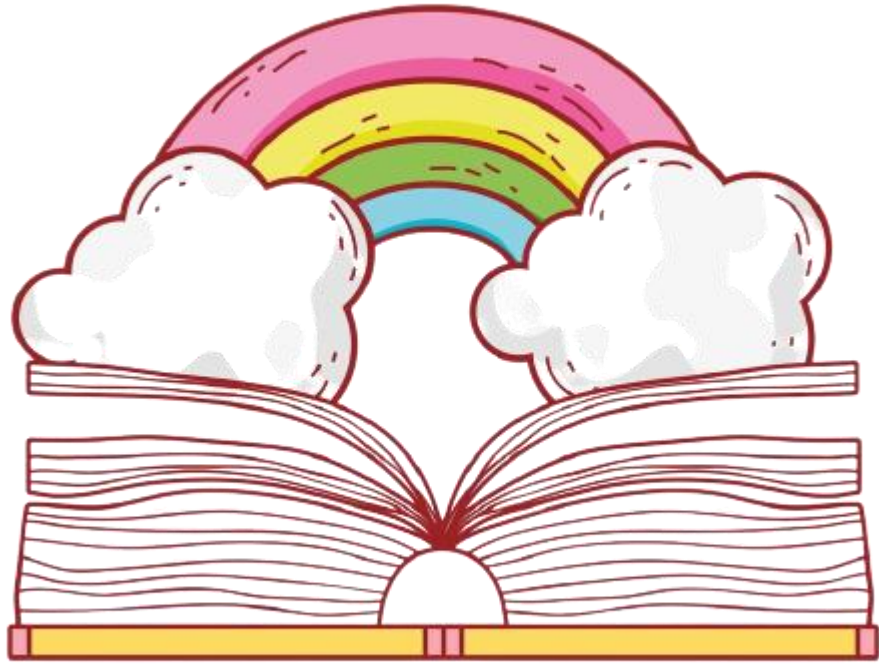


11. Catalog: a long list of anything; an inventory used to emphasize quantity or inclusiveness.



12. Climax: the point at which the conflict of the story begins to reach a turning point and begins to be resolved.





13. Conceit: an elaborate figure of speech comparing two very dissimilar things.

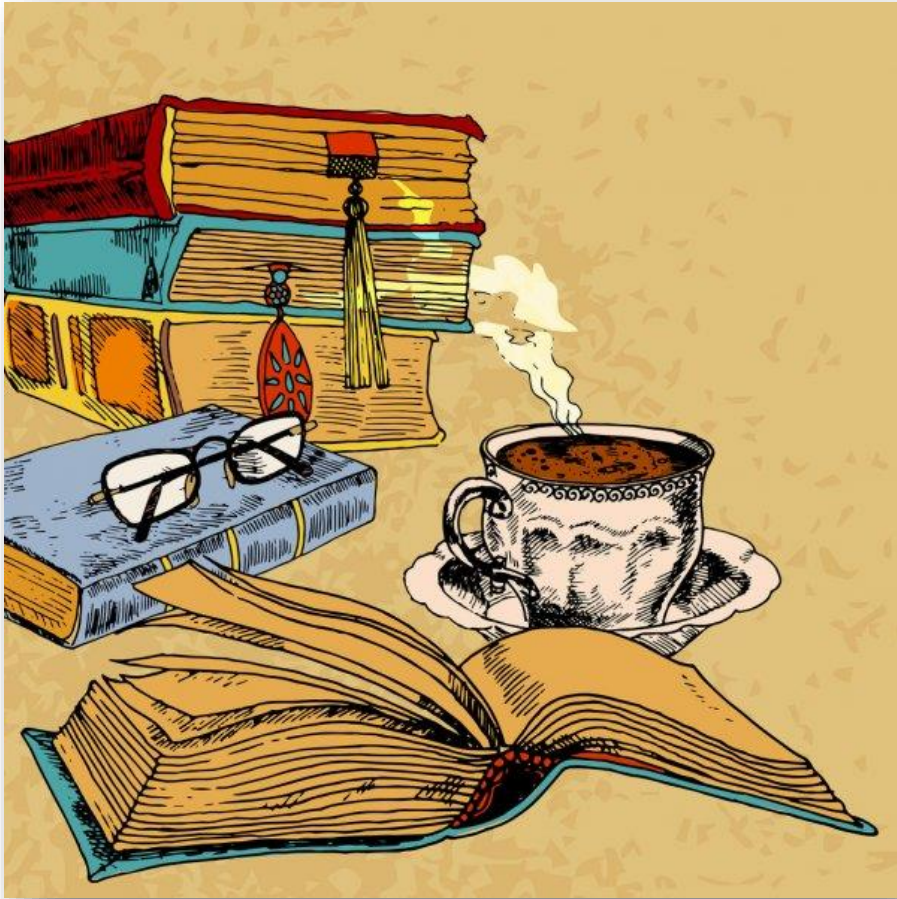


14. Conflict: the struggle between two opposing forces that is the basis of the plot.

1) Internal conflict character struggling with him/her self,

2) external conflicts – character struggling with forces outside of him/her self. For example. Nature, god, society, another person, technology, etc.





15. Connotation: The associations, images, or an impression carried by a word, as opposed to the word's literal meaning.





16. Consonance: the close repetition of identical consonant sounds before and after differing vowel sounds.





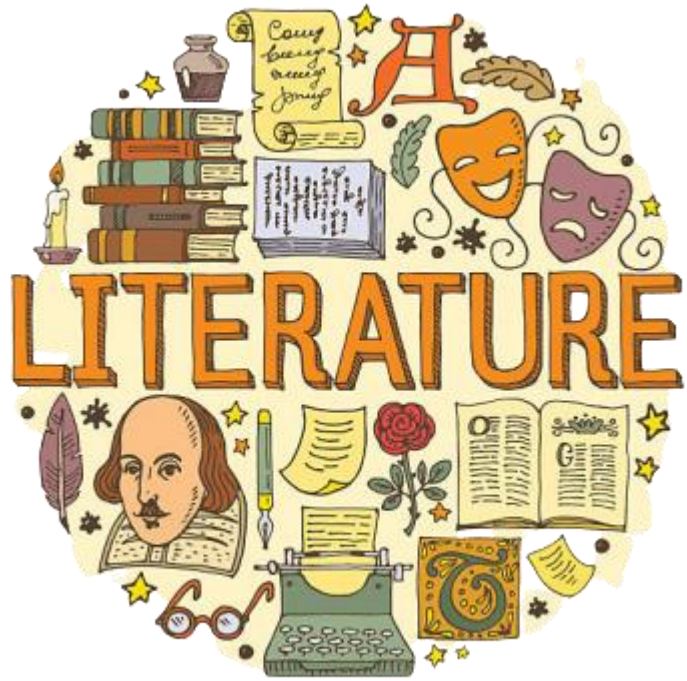
17. Denotation: the precise, literal meaning of a word, without emotional associations or overtones.





18. Denouement: the final unraveling or outcome of the plot in drama or fiction during which the complications and conflicts of the plot are resolved.





19. Diction: Word choice





20. Enjambment: The carrying of sense and grammatical structure in a poem beyond the end of one line, **COUPLET**, or **STANZA** and into the next.





21. Epigram: Any witty, pointed saying. Originally an epigram meant an inscription, or epitaph usually in verse, on a tomb. Later it came to mean a short poem that compressed meaning and expression in the manner of an inscription.





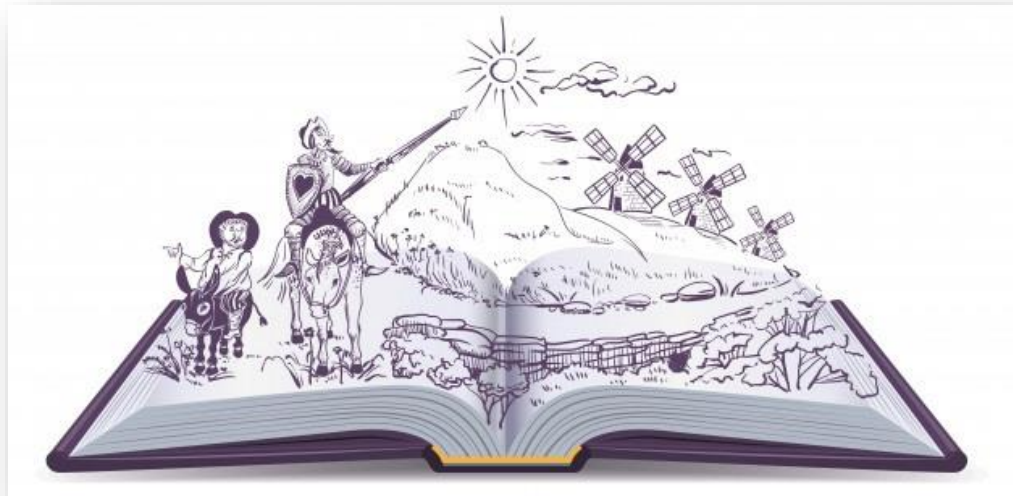
22. Epigraph: A motto or quotation that appears at the beginning of a book, play, chapter, or poem. Occasionally, an epigraph shows the source for the title of a work. Because the epigraph usually relates to the theme of a piece of literature, it can give the reader insight into the work.





23. Epitaph: The inscription on a tombstone or monument in memory of the person or people buried there. Epitaph also refers to a brief literary piece that sums up the life of a dead person.





24. Euphony: A succession of sweetly melodious sounds; the opposite of CACOPHONY. The term is applied to smoothly flowing POETRY or PROSE.





25. Exposition: background information at the beginning of the story, such as setting, characters and conflicts. In a short story the exposition appears in the opening paragraphs; in a novel the exposition is usually part of the first chapter.



