

6th Grade Literature Study Guide

Genres of Literature

Prose – The ordinary form of writing in paragraphs

Fiction - writing that tells about imaginary characters and events

Nonfiction - writing that presents and explains ideas or that tells about real events, people, places and objects.

Types of nonfiction –

Memoir – describes one or more meaningful events, and may express strong feelings.

Diary – personal record of events and experiences

Essay – short work on a single subject

Poetry – Literature that appears in verse form. Many poems have regular rhythm and rhyme patterns. Poetry uses highly concise language to tell a story or present an image.

Drama – A story written to be performed by actors. Drama is characterized by the use of dialogue and stage directions.

Literary Terms

Plot – sequence of events selected by the author to present and resolve a conflict.

Conflict – a struggle between opposing forces

Internal conflict – occurs within a character

External conflict - occurs between a character and a force outside of himself.

Types – man vs. man, man vs. nature

Exposition – The story's setup. Introduces the characters, setting, and basic situation, conflict is introduced.

Rising Action – events that increase the tension of the story, tension builds to a climax.

Climax – the turning point of the story.

Falling action – sets up the story's ending, events are settled.

Resolution – final outcome of the story, conflict is usually settled.

Setting – the time, place, and general environment in which the events of the story take place.

Theme – is the underlying meaning of a literary work.

Characterization – the methods an author uses to create a fictional character.

Protagonist – main character

Antagonist – the character that is the source of conflict for the protagonist.

Point of view – the relationship between the narrator and the story. The author’s choice of narrator determines the amount of information a reader will be given.

Types – First person – narrator is a character in the story

Third person – is when the narrator is not a character in the story.

Figurative Language - language expanded beyond its ordinary literal meaning.

Figures of Speech

Simile – a comparison in which the words *like* or *as* are used to point out a similarity between two basically unlike things.

Metaphor – a comparison between two unlike things that does not use the words *like* or *as*.

Personification – a figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to nonhuman things.

Authors

R. J. Palacio – *Wonder*

Jack London – “The King of Mazy May”

Walter Dean Meyers – “Jeremiah’s Song”

Joan Aiken – “Lob’s Girl”

Gary Soto – “Drive-in Movies”

Julia Alvarez – “Names, Nombres”

Paul Zindel – “The Pigman & Me”

Be prepared to discuss the setting, characters (protagonist and antagonist), conflicts, and themes in *Wonder*.

Be able to identify the three types of figures of speech in quotations from selections that we have read.