

7th 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.

Elements of Nonfiction

Functional texts – practical documents that help readers perform everyday tasks

Literary nonfiction - features some of the same elements as fiction

Types of Nonfiction

Articles - short prose works that present facts about a subject

Essays – short prose works that focus on a particular subject, author has emotional connection to the subject

Purposes of Nonfiction

Expository – presents facts and ideas

Persuasive – convince readers to take an action or adopt a point of view

Narrative – tell a story of a real-life experience

Descriptive – provide a vivid picture of something

Reflective – explain the writer’s insights about an event or experience

Humorous – entertain and amuse

Analytical – break large idea into parts to show how the parts work as a whole

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.

Elements of Drama

Dialogue- the words spoken by an actor

Stage directions – the playwright’s instructions about how the drama should be performed

Playwright - author of a play

Script – written text of a drama

Acts - units of action on a drama

Scenes – Acts are often divided into parts called scenes.

Aside – a comment made by a character to the audience. It’s not meant to be heard by other characters.

Soliloquy – speech in which a character is alone and reveals private thoughts

Monologue – long, uninterrupted speech spoken by one character to another.

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

Climax – the turning point of the story

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.

Hyperbole – exaggeration for effect

Identify the following authors.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 – Christopher Paul Curtis

“**Rikki-tikki-tavi**” – Rudyard Kipling

“**Two Kinds**” – Amy Tan

“**The Night the Bed Fell**” – James Thurber

“**Stolen Day**” – Sherwood Anderson

A Christmas Carol – novel – Charles Dickens

“**The Third Wish**” – Joan Aiken

“**Ribbons**” – Laurence Yep

Be prepared to discuss the plot, characters, themes, settings, conflicts in *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and *A Christmas Carol*.

You will be required to identify figures of speech in excerpts from some of the works we have read this semester.