

Study Guide 8th Grade Literature

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.

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.

Stanza – a group of lines of poetry

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 – introduces the characters and their situation

Rising Action - develops the conflict

Climax – the turning point of the story

Falling Action – sets up the story's ending

Resolution – conclusion, shows how the conflict is 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.

Character's motivation – reasons for a character's actions

Character traits – his or her qualities, attitudes, and values

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 limited – is when the narrator is not a character in the story and knows only what one character knows and is thinking.

Third person omniscient - is when the character is not in the story but knows all things about all characters.

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.

Symbol – a person, place, object or event that has a meaning in itself but suggests other meanings as well.

Hyperbole – an exaggeration for effect.

Authors

Daniel Keyes – *Flowers for Algernon*

SE Hinton – *The Outsiders*

Elie Weisel - *Night*

Ray Bradbury - “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh”

Robert Frost – “Nothing Gold Can Stay”

Edgar Allen Poe – “The Tell-Tale Heart”

Be able to identify the genre of literature of the literary works above.

Be prepared to discuss the historical settings of these works and the dramatization of “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

Be able to identify conflicts, themes, characters, protagonists, antagonists, and point of view in the above works of literature.

You will be asked to identify the various figures of speech in excerpts from poetry and prose.