

## Terms for Literary Analysis

**Drama – Many of the following terms are applicable to both fiction and drama.**

act	comic relief	monologue
antagonist	conflict	prologue
aside	crisis	protagonist
catastrophe	denouement	rising action
catharsis	dues ex machina	scene
character	epilogue	soliloquy
dynamic	exposition	tragedy
flat	falling action	tragic flaw
round	farce	villain
static	foil	
stock	hamartia	
climax	hero	
comedy	hubris	

### Elements of Style

atmosphere	colloquial	connotation
denotation	dialect	dialogue
diction	epigram	invective
inversion	irony	mood
paradox	dramatic	proverb
pun	situation	sarcasm
satire	verbal	slang
tone	voice	idiomatic

### Fiction

anecdote	anticlimax	character (see drama)
flashback	incident	motivation
narrative voice	point of view	stream of consciousness
subplot	first person	theme
	objective	
	subjective	
	innocent eye	
	omniscient	
	limited	
	third person	
	unlimited	

## Figures of Speech

allusion	apostrophe	euphemism
hyperbole	litotes	metaphor
onomatopoeia	personification	simile
symbol	synecdoche	understatement
metonymy		

## Form (Rhetorical Devices and Strategies)

allegory	anecdote	diary
discourse	essay	fable
argumentation	formal	genre
description	humorous	novel
exposition	informal	novella
narration	parable	prose
verse	frame narrative	analogy

### Poetry

alliteration	image	sonnet
assonance	imagery	English/Shakespearean
blank verse	en medias res	Italian/Petrarchan
cacophony	lyric	stanza
cadence	measure	stress
caesura	meter	trochee
connotation	ode	consonance
pentameter	controlling image	persona
couplet	quatrain	dirge
refrain	dissonance	repetition
dramatic monologue	rhyme	elegy
end-stopped line	end	enjambment
epic	external	euphony
foot	feminine	scansion
free verse	internal	iamb
sestet	masculine	octave
tercet	heroic couplet	onomatopoeia

### Syntax

antithesis	balanced sentence	parallel form
coherence	complex sentence	compound-complex
ellipsis	inverted sentence	loose sentence