1. Act – a major unit of action in a play
2. Almanac – a calendar and date book
3. Alliteration – repeating sounds by using words whose beginning sounds are the same
4. Allusion – a reference to characters or themes in another piece of literature
5. Analogy – a comparison between two otherwise different objects that share some of the same characteristics
6. Antagonist – the person or thing in the story struggling against the main character
7. Anthology – a collection of stories, plays, or poems written by different authors collected in one book
8. Aphorism – a wise and clever saying
9. Author’s Purpose – the reason(s) for which the author writes
10. Autobiography – the story of a person’s life, written by that person
11. Ballad – a simple song that often uses a refrain and sometimes uses rhyme and is passed from person to person
12. Biography – the story of a person’s life, written by someone other than the person
13. By-line – a line in a news article that tells who wrote it
14. Characterization – the way a writer develops character’s qualities and personality traits
15. Character Trait – a character’s way of thinking, behaving, or speaking
16. Chronological – arranged in the order in which things happened
17. Climax – the high point of interest or suspense in a story or play
18. Comedy – a play with a happy ending, intended to amuse its audience
19. Conflict – the struggle of the main character against himself or herself, another person, or nature
20. Connotation – images or emotions connected to a word
21. Couplet – a rhyming pair
22. Dialect – the speech of a particular part of a country, or of a certain group of people
23. Dialogue – the conversation among characters in a story or play
24. Drama – a story told through the words and actions of characters written to be performed as well as read; a play
25. Dramatic Irony – when the audience or reader knows more than the characters know
26. Editorial – a news writer’s personal opinion about an event or topic
27. End Rhyme – a feature of a poem or song in which the last words of two lines rhyme with one another
28. Epic – a long story written in verse
29. Epilogue – a selection coming after the story’s end
30. Essay – a written work that shows a writer’s opinions on some basic or current issue
31. Exaggeration – a use of words to make something seem worse than it is; stretching the truth to a great extent
32. Excerpt – a short passage from a longer piece of writing
33. Exposition – the part of short stories that introduce setting, characters, and the situation
34. Fable – a story that teaches a lesson about life, called a moral, often with animals who act like humans
35. Falling Action – the parts of the story that follow the climax
36. Fantasy – stories in which wizards and other creatures participate
37. Fiction – writing in which the author creates the events and characters
38. Figurative Language – language that uses word pictures to compare or describe, and that is not meant to be taken as the truth
39. First Person – a point of view where the narrator is also a character, using the pronouns *I* and *we*
40. Flashback – a look into the past at some point in a story
41. Folklore – stories and customs that are saved and passed along by people in an area or group
42. Foreshadowing – clues or hints that a writer gives about something that has not yet happened
43. Free Verse – poetry that does not have a strict rhyming pattern or regular line length, and uses actual speech patterns for the rhythms of sound
44. Genre – a specific type or kind of literature
45. Haiku – a form of Japanese poetry having three lines with five syllables in the first, seven in the second, and five in the third
46. Hero – the leading character in a story, novel, play, or film
47. Humor – writing intended to amuse
48. Hyperbole – an overstatement to show something is important
49. Idiom – a phrase that has a different meaning than its words really mean
50. Imagery – a picture in the reader’s mind created by words
51. Irony – the difference between what is expected to happen in a story and what does happen
52. Legend – a story from folklore that features characters who actually lived, or real events or places
53. Limerick – a five-line poem in which the first, second, and fifth lines, and the third and fourth lines, rhyme
54. Metaphor – a figure of speech that says one thing *is* another
55. Monologue – a speech by one person
56. Mood – the feeling created by a piece of writing
57. Moral – a lesson or message about life told in a story
58. Myth – an important story, often part of a culture’s religion, that explains how the world came to be or why natural events happen, usually including gods, goddesses, or powerful human beings
59. Narrative – a story, usually told in the order that it happened
60. Narrator – one who tells a story
61. Nonfiction – prose writing about real people and true experiences
62. Novel – fiction that is book-length and has more plot and details than a short story
63. Onomatopoeia – using words that sound like their meanings
64. Pamphlet – a short printed story or paper with no cover, or with a paper cover
65. Personification – giving characters such as animals or objects that characteristics or qualities of humans
66. Persuasive – meant to influence
67. Plot – the series of events in a story
68. Poetry – literature in verse form that usually has rhythm and paints powerful or beautiful impressions with words
69. Point of View – the relationship of the narrator to the story
70. Prose – all writing that is not poetry
71. Protagonist – the main character in a story
72. Pun – a joke formed by a play on words
73. Realism – a literary movement in which authors write about life as it is, not as they wish it to be
74. Realistic Drama – a play that tells a story just as it might happen in real life
75. Repetition – using a word, phrase, or image more than once, for emphasis
76. Rhyme – words that end with the same sounds
77. Rhyme Scheme – a pattern of end rhymes in a poem
78. Rhythm – a pattern created by the stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry
79. Rising Action – the events of the plot that add to the conflict
80. Scene – a unit of action in a play that takes place in one setting
81. Science Fiction – a type of literature that deals with people, places, and events that could not happen in our reality
82. Semiautobiography – a story based on a person’s life written by that person, with some events changed
83. Sequence – the order of events
84. Setting – a story’s time and place
85. Short Story – a brief word of prose fiction that includes, plot, setting, characters, point of view, and theme
86. Simile – a figure of speech in which two things are compared using a phrase that includes the word *like* or *as*
87. Stage Directions – notes by the writer of a play describing such things as setting, lighting, sound effects, and how the actors are to look, behave, move, and speak
88. Stanza – a group of lines that forms a unit in a poem
89. Stream of Consciousness – a writing technique that develops the plot by allowing the reader to see how and what the characters are thinking
90. Style – an author’s way of writing
91. Suspense – a quality in a story that makes the reader uncertain or nervous about what will happen next
92. Symbol – something that represents something else
93. Tall Tale – a story from the past that features larger-than-life characters who have unreal adventures
94. Tanka – a form of Japanese poetry having five lines with five syllables in the first, seven in the second, five in the third, and seven in the fourth and fifth
95. Theme – the main idea of a story or play
96. Third Person – a point of view that refers to characters as *he* or *she* and expresses some characters’ thoughts
97. Tone – the attitude an author takes toward a subject
98. Tragedy – a play that ends with the suffering or death of one or more of the main characters
99. Verbal Irony – a figure of speech that occurs when a person says one thing, but means another
100. Voice – the way a writer expresses ideas through style, form, content, and purpose