**LITERARY READING KEY TERMS**

**Summarize:** To give the main events of a story in the order in which they happen. (RL2)

**Character:** A person or thing in a work of literature. Goldilocks is a character in “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.” (RL3)

**Dialogue:** The words characters say to each other.

**Setting:** Where and when a story takes place, including the time of day, the season, or a location. (RL3)

**Plot:** The events that happen in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. (RL3)

**Vocabulary:** The meanings of words and phrases and how they are used in the story. (RL4)

**Inference:** To infer means to come to a reasonable conclusion based on evidence found in the text. By contrast, an explicit idea or message is stated directly by the writer. The author tells the readers exactly what they need to know. (RL1)

**Theme:** The theme of a literary text is its lesson or message. For example, a story could be about two friends who like to do things together, and the theme might be the importance of friendship. (RL2)

**Mythology:** Stories about popular beliefs in different cultures. In Greek mythology, the stories of the Greek gods are very well known and sometimes they appear with different names in other cultures, such as Roman mythology. (RL4)

English words originating in mythology:

* 1. Herculean—an adjective describing a task that is huge or challenging and will take a lot of physical, mental, or emotional strength
  2. Pandora’s box—a term given to a situation that is better left alone; messing with it will only bring more problems
  3. Achilles heel—a term given to someone’s weakness or character flaw
  4. Trojan horse—a term given to a person or entity that appears harmless on the outside but is really harmful on the inside
  5. Midas touch—a term that describes a person’s ability to take a situation or an object that appears worthless and turn it into something that is worth much
  6. Narcissist—an adjective that describes someone who is totally self-involved

**Verse:** Writing organized in a rhythmic pattern, as often is the case in poetry. (RL5)

**Rhythm:** The regular, repeated sounds of words in a poem. (RL5)

**Meter:** A rhythm that repeats a basic pattern in a poem. (RL5)

**Figurative language:** You need to distinguish between literal and figurative meanings of words and phrases. Literal refers to the actual meaning of words and phrases. Figurative language requires you to analyze the words and sometimes make comparisons. Examples of figurative language are similes and metaphors. Similes make a comparison using a linking word such as like, as, or than. (Her shirt was as green as the grass.) A metaphor makes a comparison without a linking word. If someone describes clouds by saying “They were whipped cream,” they are using a metaphor. The clouds looked like whipped cream, but they were not literally whipped cream. (RL4)

**Compare vs. contrast:** Though similar, comparing is analyzing two things, such as characters or stories, in relation to each other, while contrasting is specifically analyzing the differences between two things, such as two different characters or stories. (RL6/RL9)

**Point of view:** The perspective from which a story is told. The point of view depends upon who the narrator is and how much he or she knows. The point of view could be first person (I went to the store), second person (You went to the store), or third person (He went to the store). The point of view used by the author can have a big influence on his or her story. (RL6)

**Genre:** A genre is a category of passages, such as fiction and nonfiction. Each genre has a particular style, form, and content. (RL9)

**INFORMATIONAL READING KEY TERMS**

**Main idea:** The most important idea that the author is trying to say. (RI2)

**Details:** The facts and ideas that support the main idea of a passage. (RI2) Summary: A summary contains the most important points but does not give all of the details. (RI2)

**Author’s purpose:** The author has a specific reason or purpose for writing the passage. Often the author’s purpose is not directly stated. (RI3)

**Fact and opinion:** A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven because it states a writer’s belief or judgment about something. Deciding whether a statement is a fact or an opinion often comes down to a single question: “Can you prove it?” If you can prove a statement, then it is a fact. If not, it’s an opinion. (RI2)

**Chronological order:** The order in which a series of events happens. A text that is arranged in order of time from the beginning to the end is in chronological order. (RI5)

**Cause and effect:** This is a relationship where one thing causes another thing to happen. A passage may also be organized by stating the problem and solution. (RI3)

**Point of view:** The opinion of the author. Your opinion may differ from the opinion of the author writing a passage. (RI6)

**Evidence:** Something that proves the truth of something else. Informational texts may contain evidence in the form of key words, illustrations, maps, or photographs to prove that the information is correct. (RI7)

**Firsthand account:** A description of events written or told by someone who was actually there. If your friend tells you she fell and hurt her knee, it is a firsthand account. (RI6)

**Secondhand account:** A description of events written or told by someone who was not actually there, but who got the story from another source. If your friend tells you that your other friend fell and hurt her knee, but the friend telling you didn’t see the fall happen, it is a secondhand account. (RI6)

**LANGUAGE KEY TERMS**

**Grammar:** The system of rules for language. (L1e)

**Usage:** Using the correct word when there is a choice (to, too, two). (L1e)

**Word parts:** The prefixes, suffixes, and root words that give clues as to the meaning of words. (L4b)

**Pronoun:** A part of speech that is used instead of a noun when the meaning of the noun is already understood. I, we, he, she, they, and it are all pronouns. (L1a)

**Relative pronouns:** Words used to refer to a noun that was already mentioned but is being referred to again. Examples of relative pronouns are who, which, whose, whom, and that. (L1a)

**Verb:** A part of speech that represents action or doing. Jump, walk, ski, and scare are all verbs. (L1a) Progressive tense: A tense used to describe an action that is ongoing and has not stopped. For example, I am walking, I was walking, and I will be walking are all variations of the progressive tense. (L1b)

**Adjective:** A part of speech that is a describing word. Beautiful, tall, blue, and interesting are all adjectives. (L1a)

**Order of adjectives:** This refers to the order in which adjectives are correctly listed according to their type. For example, the big red ball. (L1d)

**Adverb:** A part of speech that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Adverbs usually end in –ly. Quietly, thoroughly, frantically, and lovingly are all adverbs. (L1a)

**Relative adverb:** A relative adverb is used to give more details in a sentence. For example, where, when, and why. (L1a)

**Sentence fragment:** A sentence that is incomplete. A short walk would be a sentence fragment. The complete sentence would be I went on a short walk. (L1f)

**Simile:** A comparison using like or as. For example, She is as pretty as a picture. (L5a)

**Metaphor:** A direct comparison that states one thing is another. It isn’t meant to be literal, but descriptive. For example, He is an animal on the soccer field does not mean that the boy is really an animal, but it is a metaphor for how he plays soccer (very aggressively). (L5a)

**Coordinating conjunction:** A word that is used to combine two simple sentences. For example, and, or, but. (L1c)

**Prepositional phrases:** Phrases that are used to show direction, location, or time. Examples of prepositional phrases are on the box, in the box, around the box, by the box, and through the box. (L1e)

**Punctuation:** Writing marks that help to separate and clarify ideas. Examples of punctuation are the period, comma, colon, exclamation mark, and question mark. (L2)

**Context clues:** Words and phrases that surround another phrase and help to explain its meaning. Sometimes a word cannot be understood without the context of the words and phrases around it. For example, he threw it could mean several things, but when the full sentence is included, He threw the basketball up high from midcourt and sunk it through the hoop for two points, the meaning is clear. (L4a)

**Synonyms:** Words that have the same meaning. Small and little are synonyms. (L5c)

**Antonyms:** Words that have opposite meanings. Small and large are antonyms. (L5c)

**Idioms:** Sayings and expressions that have figurative or non-literal meanings. Their meanings are mostly suggested. For example, saying something is a piece of cake is an idiom. It means that something is easy to do. Another common idiom is back to square one. This means to start over again. (L5b)

**INFORMATIONAL WRITING KEY TERMS**

**Informational/explanatory texts:** A form of writing that informs the reader or explains something. (W2D) Introduction: The beginning of a piece of writing. The introduction should let readers know what they will be reading about and set up the main idea of the writing. (W2a)

**Organization:** The way in which a piece of writing is structured. Similar ideas and illustrations should be grouped together, and the order of the information should make sense. (W2a/W4)

**Transition:** A word, phrase, or clause that links one idea to the next. Writing should not jump from one idea to the next without transitions that guide the reader to the next idea. Examples include words such as “another,” “for example,” “also,” and “because.” (W2c)

**Conclusion:** The end of a piece of writing is the conclusion. The conclusion should sum up the main idea of the writing and provide an overall message for the reader. (W2d)

**Formatting:** The way in which a piece of writing is organized. For example, a writer can use headings and subheadings to organize the writing and present the information in a clear way. (W2a)

**Multimedia:** A variety of mediums. Writing does not only include pen to paper or a typed essay. Other ways of enhancing writing can include mediums such as art, presentations, photographs, charts, videos, and more. (W2a)

**OPINION WRITING KEY TERMS**

**Topic:** What a piece of writing is about. When writing your opinion, choose topics about which you have strong feelings and a lot to say. (W1a)

**Reasons:** Details that support your opinion in a piece of writing. (W1a)

**Purpose:** The writer’s reason for writing an essay or article. All writing has a purpose, whether it is to persuade, inform, explain, or entertain. (W1b)

**Fact and opinion:** A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven because it states a writer’s belief or judgment about something. Deciding whether a statement is a fact or an opinion often comes down to a single question: “Can you prove it?” If you can prove a statement somehow, then it is a fact. If not, it’s an opinion. (W1b)

**Textual evidence:** You need to support your opinions with evidence. Textual evidence includes facts, opinions of experts, quotes, statistics, and definitions. (W1b)

**Point of view:** The opinion or perspective of the author on a specific topic. (W1c)

**Audience:** The people who will be reading the piece of writing. Writers should keep their audience in mind and adjust their ideas and vocabulary so that they can be best understood. (W4)

**Revision:** The process of editing and rewriting a piece of writing. All good writing requires a lot of revision in order to catch mistakes and make ideas clearer. (W5)

**Milestones Power Words:**

1. Analyze—break down into parts to see how it works
2. Argue—pick a side and support with evidence
3. Compare—find the similarities between
4. Contrast—find the differences between
5. Conclude—bring to an ending OR use evidence to come to a realization
6. Describe—report in detail what one says or does
7. Determine—consider all possibilities to arrive at a decision
8. Assess—decide the worth or performance of something
9. Create—to make or formulate or design
10. Predict—to form an educated guess about what WILL HAPPEN based upon what HAS HAPPENED
11. Justify—to give logical reasons for your decisions