**Literary Terms**

Become familiar with the literary terms that we will use in this class.

**Figurative Language:** expressing ideas indirectly

**Metaphorical Devices**

1. **Metaphor**: comparison of two seemingly unlike things where you state that one thing is or was the other

*Ex.: Her heart* ***is*** *a block of ice.*

*Ex.: The shark* ***was*** *a knife cutting through the strong current of the ocean*

1. **Simile**: comparison of two seemingly unlike things using like or as

*Ex.: The candle was* ***as*** *bright* ***as*** *the sun against the midnight sky.*

*Ex.: His blood dripped* ***like*** *syrup down his chin.*

1. **Personification**: human characteristics given to non-human things

*Ex.: The car* ***whined*** *as it slowed to a stop.*

1. **Imagery**: Using sensory detail in order to give a more complete description

*Ex.: The dirt* ***felt rough*** *against my shins as I slid into home base. I could* ***smell the grass*** *staining my once white uniform. The* ***taste of mud*** *was thick in my mouth.*

**Ironic Devices**

1. **Hyperbole**: an over exaggeration

*Ex.: “Will you marry me?” She stared at me* ***forever*** *before she finally said, “Yes!”*

1. **Understatement**: making big things seem small

*Ex.: After getting convicted of the murder, I convinced my boyfriend that life imprisonment would go by quickly.*

1. **Oxymoron**: a figure of speech in which two contradictory words or phrases are combined in a single expression

*Ex.: “fat boy slim” or “jumbo shrimp”*

1. **Paradox**: a statement that seems contradictory but is essentially true

*Ex.: Those who know true success are those who have never succeeded.*

1. **Situational Irony:** when the outcome of a certain situation is completely different than what is initially expected; an unexpected result

*Ex.: A traffic cop who gets his license suspended because he forgot to pay a parking tickets.*

1. **Dramatic Irony**: when the audience has more information than the character does

*Ex.: When Romeo finds Juliet he thinks she is dead and kills himself. The audience knows that she is just drugged and faking her death so she can be with him.*

1. **Verbal Irony**: when you say one thing, but mean another (also known as **sarcasm**)

*Ex.: In describing a prostitute you might use verbal irony and say “she was well loved my many.”*

**Narrative and Character Terms**

1. **Point of View:** the perspective from which a story is told;

*1st – A story told from someone who is a part of the story, uses “I”, “my”, “we”, etc.*

*2nd –When the speaker speaks directly to the audience, uses “you”*

*3rd –A story told from someone watching the story unfold, uses “they”, “he”, “she”*

1. **Omniscience:** A speaker who knows or tells about everyone or everything; like God or Santa
2. **Round Character:** Complex, fully developed character, you know this character; usually 1 but can be more

*Ex: Harry Potter*

1. **Flat Character:** character who lacks complexity, you can identify them but do not know much about them, usually stereotypes

*Ex.: Crabe and Goyle*

1. **Foil:** A character who contrasts with another and points out differing qualities

*Ex.: Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy*

1. **Protagonist:** the leading character or characters

*Ex.: Harry, Ron, and Hermione*

1. **Antagonist:** the person or force working against the protagonist

*Ex.: Voldemort*

**Plot Terms**

1. ***Theme****:* the central idea
2. **Tone:** the author or speaker’s implied attitude toward the subject or character; determined through **diction**
3. **Mood:** the feeling created through setting, characters, and other elements of the written work; how the audience feels or is suppose to feel about the work

**Poetic Terms**

1. **Line:** a single line of words in a poem, like a sentence in other writing
2. **Stanza:** a division or unit of poem made up of lines; like a paragraph in other writing
3. **Lyrical Poem:** a poem that focuses conveying an emotion
4. **Narrative Poem:** a poem that focuses on telling a story