

Glossary

Affix	A word part that is "fixed to" either the beginnings of words (prefixes) or the endings of words (suffixes). For example, the word <i>disrespectful</i> has two affixes, a prefix (<i>dis-</i>) and a suffix (<i>-ful</i>).
Alliteration	The repetition of speech sounds in the beginning of nearby words (e.g., <i>Peter Piper's pickled peppers</i>).
Analogy	The relationship created between new and familiar words.
Analyze	To break material down into its constituent parts and determine how the parts relate to one another and to the overall structure or purpose of the text(s).
Antonym	A word having the opposite meaning of another word (e.g., <i>cool/warm</i>).
Assess	To evaluate or measure the nature, ability, or quality of an idea, object, concept, and/or other element in a text.
Author's Purpose	The motive or reason for which an author writes a text.
Blend	To combine sounds in order to pronounce a word or word part (e.g., <i>snail</i>).
Character	A person represented in a dramatic or narrative work.
Clarify	To make the meaning more transparent and easier to understand.
Compare	To detect similarities or correspondences between two or more ideas, objects, concepts, and/or other elements from a text.
Compose	To arrange ideas and details in a clear and coherent manner to create an effective message.
Consonant	A speech sound in which the air channel is at least partially obstructed.
Contrast	To indicate differences.
Decode	To analyze (break down) spoken words or graphic symbols/units of a familiar language to discover their intended meaning.
Demonstrate	To make evident or prove.
Describe	To convey the appearance, nature, and/or attributes of elements or ideas in literary or informational text using vivid language and textual evidence.
Dialogue	The verbal interaction between two or more characters in a dramatic or narrative work.
Digraph	Two letters that together make one sound.
Diphthong	Two letters that glide together to form two sounds.
Evaluate	To make judgments about the value of ideas, purposes, or claims of a text based on criteria and standards.
Evidence	Facts, figures, details, quotations, or other sources of data and information that provide support for claims or an analysis of the text and that can be evaluated by others.

Explain	To make clear by describing in more detail or giving relevant facts or ideas.
Explicit	To state directly.
Fable	A short narrative that contains a moral or principle of human behavior (e.g., Aesop's <i>The Hare and the Tortoise</i> : slow and steady wins the race).
Figurative Language	Words or expressions with meaning other than the literal interpretation.
Figures of Speech	Spoken and written language that departs from literal meaning in both pattern and usage (e.g., personification, metaphor, hyperbole).
First Person	A narrator who is a participant in the story and uses the pronouns <i>I</i> and <i>me</i> .
Folktale	A short narrative in prose of unknown authorship which has been a part of an oral tradition over generations (e.g., <i>Paul Bunyan</i>).
Genre	A type or class of literature (e.g., fiction, drama, poetry).
Grapheme	A written representation of a phoneme (a sound); may be a single letter or group of letters.
Implicit	Intended or suggested rather than directly stated.
Inference	A conclusion logically drawn from presented information.
Inflectional Ending	Word part added to the end of a word.
Informative/ Explanatory Writing	Writing that represents knowledge originating from instruction, study, or research and is meant to reveal or further clarify by describing in more detail.
Integrate	To identify elements and fit them into an existing structure.
Interpret	To understand and explain the meaning of.
Key Details	Points of information in a text that strongly support the meaning of the text or tell the story.
Literal	Taking words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or allegory.
Learned Spelling Patterns	Groups of letters that can represent the same sound. For example, <i>-er</i> , <i>-ir</i> , and <i>-ur</i> can represent the same sound in <i>her</i> , <i>sir</i> , and <i>fur</i> .
Long Vowel	A term used to indicate a tense vowel sound.
Main Idea	The chief topic of a passage expressed or implied in a word or phrase.
Morphology	The study of the structure and construction of words including where the word originated (e.g., Greek, Latin), the inflection (the way a word is changed or altered in form to achieve a new meaning, such as adding <i>-s</i> or <i>-ed</i> to a verb to change tense), and compounding (two or more words connected to make a longer word, such as <i>birdbath</i>).
Narrative Writing	A story involving events, characters, and what the characters say and do.
Narrator	The person in a fictional narrative who relates the story.



Onset	The initial phonological unit (letter or letters involved in the initial sound of the word) that comes before the vowel (e.g., the <i>c</i> in <i>cat</i>).
Opinion	A personal view, attitude, or appraisal.
Paraphrase	To translate from the original text into one's own words.
Phoneme	An individual sound unit of speech.
Plot	The events and actions of a narrative work.
Point of View	Chiefly in literary texts, the narrative perspective (as in first- or third-person narration).
Prefix	An affix attached before a root word (e.g., <i>disconnect</i>).
Rime	A vowel and any following consonants of a syllable (e.g., <i>ook</i> in <i>book</i>).
Root	The basic part of a word that carries the main component of meaning and cannot be further broken down without loss of identity.
Rubric	An evaluation tool or guideline that outlines the criteria and indicators of success.
Scaffolding	The gradual withdrawal of adult support within the learning process in order to shift more and more responsibility for learning onto the student.
Segment	Separating the individual phonemes, or sounds, of a word into distinct units.
Sequence of Events	The structure of the action of a story in chronological order.
Setting	The general place, historical time, and social circumstances in which action occurs in a story or play.
Short Vowel	A term used to indicate a relaxed vowel sound.
Suffix	An affix attached to the end of a base, root, or stem that changes the grammatical function of the word (e.g., <i>history</i> [noun] to <i>historical</i> [adjective]).
Summarize	To condense a text to its general theme(s) and/or major points.
Syllable	A word or word part that has one vowel sound.
Synonym	A word having a similar meaning (e.g., <i>cold/chilly</i>).
Synthesize	The process of arranging and combining pieces, parts, and elements into a pattern or structure not clearly there before.
Text Features	Print features, including graphic, informational, and organizational aids (e.g., bold print, italics, maps, charts, labels, headings).
Theme	An abstract concept broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work.
Third Person	A narrator who is outside the story proper and refers to all of the characters as <i>he</i> , <i>she</i> , or <i>they</i> .
Transitions	Words, phrases, or sentences that establish connections between ideas when writing or speaking (e.g., <i>similarly</i> , <i>in addition</i> , <i>finally</i>).
Vowel	A speech sound in which the air flow is not obstructed or blocked.
Vowel Team	Two or three letters that together spell one sound.



Vowel-<i>r</i> Combination	A vowel followed by an <i>r</i> in which the vowel sound is neither long nor short but changes due to the letter <i>r</i> .
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