

3-5 Common Literacy Vocabulary

Literature Story Elements

Conflict	The problem a character or characters has in the story
Resolution/Solution	What happens to the characters after the main conflict is solved.
Theme	A story's message, or 'big idea.' The critical idea about life the author is trying to tell.
Character Traits	The qualities that describe the character.
Point of View	The perspective from which a story is told (First person, third person). Who is telling the story?
First Person	The story is told by the main character at a time.
Third Person	The story is told by a narrator who is not part of the story.

Poetry

Line	In poetry, a line is a group of words arranged in a row that ends for a reason.
Stanza	How a poem is divided into smaller parts that are similar to paragraphs
Figurative Language	Saying one thing and meaning another.
Idiom	A phrase that has a hidden meaning (example: <i>It was raining cats and dogs.</i>)
Literal	The real meaning
Nonliteral	NOT the real meaning; when a phrase means something other than the exact words in it.
Similes	A figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using "like" or "as" (Example: <i>"She is like a rose."</i>)

Metaphor	The comparison of one thing to another without the use of <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> . (Example: “The road was a ribbon of moonlight.”)
Alliteration	The repetition of the beginning sounds of words in a sentence or phrase, as in “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,”
Hyperbole	An extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally, as “to wait an eternity.”

Informational: Gives us information about a topic

Instructional	Giving step by step directions on a specific task. (Examples recipes, directions, “How To”)
Biography	A written story of another person's life.

Text Features: parts of an informational text which have been created to help you find and learn information more easily.

Heading	A title of a page, chapter, etc.
Illustration	A picture that helps make something understood.
Photograph	a picture made by a camera
Caption	A sentence (group of words) that is written on or is next to a picture to explaining what is on the picture.
Diagram	A drawing that explains or shows the parts of something.
Labels	Words that help identify a diagram and its parts
Table of Contents	A list of key topics/chapters in the book, they are listed in the order. It is usually found in the front of the book.
Glossary	An alphabetical list (ABC order) of definitions of

	important words in the text, usually found in the back of a book.
Index	An alphabetical list (ABC order) of everything in a book with page numbers where we can find it.

Types of Text

Key Word	Words that are important in a text, often highlighted or in bold print.
Bold	A type of print that is thicker and darker than the rest of the text.

Comprehension Skills

Prior Knowledge	What I already know about the topic.
Inferring	To make a guess about something based on what is real.
Summarize	Give a short statement of the most important ideas of the story including setting, character, and problem solution.
Connections	Making relationships between what you read and other things
Questions	What do I want to know about a reading passage?
Main Idea	What the reading is mostly about.
Supporting Details	Specific fact from a passage or from a reading.
Key Ideas	The important ideas from a reading.
Author's Message/ Lesson	What the author is trying to teach you.
Purpose	The reason why the author is writing; or the reason why the reader is reading.

Text structure

Cause/ Effect	Tells us when one event makes another event happen.
Problem	A difficulty that a character experiences.
Chronological/ Sequence	The order in which events happen. (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , etc.)
Description	Specific information about a person, place, or thing.
Compare/ Contrast	Show similarities (same) and differences between two objects, ideas, people, places, or events.

Verbs

Cite	To find proof in the text.
Show Evidence	To find information in a text that supports your thinking.
Refer	To pay attention.
Support	Information that backs up a statement/answer.
Determine	Decide