

Literary Terms for MA Exam in Literature - Part I

Suggested glossaries of literary terms:

The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms (Eds. Murfin and Ray)

A Handbook to Literature (Eds. Harmon and Holman)

1. Allegory
2. Alliteration
3. Allusion
4. Analogy
5. Anaphora
6. Apostrophe
7. Archetype
8. Aside
9. Assonance
10. Ballad
11. Blank Verse
12. Caesura
13. Character: flat, round, tragic flaw, antagonist, protagonist, anti-hero, etc.
14. Chiasmus
15. Connotation
16. Consonance
17. Couplet

18. Denotation
19. Denouement
20. Deus ex machina
21. Dialect
22. Diction
23. Dramatic Irony
24. Dramatic modes: tragedy, comedy, chronicle, romance
25. Dramatic Monologue
26. Ekphrasis
27. Elegy
28. Enjambment
29. Epic
30. Fable
31. Farce
32. Foil
33. Foreshadowing
34. Frame tale
35. Free indirect discourse/style
36. Free verse
37. Genre
38. Gothic Literature
39. Hyperbole
40. Idiom
41. Imagery

42. In media res
43. Irony
44. Juxtaposition
45. Lyric poem
46. Metaphor
47. Meter: Iambic, Trochaic, Spondaic, Anapestic, Dactylic
48. Metonymy & Synecdoche
49. Motif
50. Narrator/Point of view: first-, second-, or third-person, limited or omniscient, unreliable
51. Novel
52. Ode
53. Onomatopoeia
54. Parable
55. Paradox
56. Parody
57. Parallelism
58. Personification
59. Pun
60. Quatrain
61. Refrain
62. Rhyme scheme: alternate (ABAB), enclosed (ABBA), terza rima
63. Satire
64. Simile
65. Soliloquy

66. Sonnet: Italian, English, and Spenserian

67. Speaker

68. Stanza

69. Stream of consciousness

70. Tone