

Literary Vocabulary Project

Fiction I

Part of the challenge of creative writing is that there exists no standardized, shared vocabulary for craft terms. For this project, you will coin and provide definition for, as well as a larger explanation of, an original literary term.

A vital part of reading analytically involves bringing various works into conversation with one another and seeking patterns between them. Using primarily the works of fiction we have read in this class as a basis, try to identify one story element, device, or technique that you have seen repeated, or that seems particularly unique, and for which you do not readily know a term.

Then, invent a term that embodies what you see happening in that text. Provide a definition and explanation (one paragraph) and at least three examples, taken from works of fiction, that demonstrate the use of your invented term. In your explanation, seek to answer:

How does this device/technique function?

When might it be used? Why?

What consequences go along with its use?

What social, cultural, or political issues or at stake?

What sorts of writers tend to use this device or element? Why?

What are its advantages/disadvantages?

All of this should be typed (double-spaced, MLA formatted) and turned in to me as a hardcopy at the beginning of class on Date.

Terminology Example:

Adult-child narrative perspective: when an author narrates a story from a vantage point that exists in a liminal space between a child's perspective and an adult's. The story provides child's way of looking at the world, but with the added benefit of an adult's capacity for language, in order to elevate the child's ability to relay what she sees and how. This allows the writers the freedom of expression allowed by complex language while still being able to employ the limitations of worldview embodied by the way children see things.

Literary Vocabulary Project Rubric

Fiction I

	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak
Does the term reflect complex rhetorical analysis and critical reading strategies by making a nuanced argument about a pattern in fiction writing?			
Does the author not only provide three examples , but also elucidate the specific and distinct craft choices within each example?			
Does the explanation explore the relationship between form and content as pertains to the strategies employed by the fiction writer? (i.e. circumstances that dictate the use of the technique.)			
Does the writer provide commentary on the larger, sociocultural, sociopolitical consequences for the use of the craft strategy?			
Is there a focused discussion of both the advantages and disadvantages of the use of the strategy at hand?			
Does the paper contain proper grammar and MLA formatting ?			