**Terminology Glossary**

**Noun** – a place, person or thing, e.g. *London, wall, thought, cat*.

**Common noun** – a naming word for a thing that is tangible, e.g. *chair, penguin, man, arsonist, murderer, ghost, crumpet, trumpet.*

**Abstract noun** – a naming word for an idea, concept, state of being or belief, e.g. *tidiness, sadness, love, politics, Marxism.*

**Proper noun** – a naming word for a specific example of a common noun (often are names of places or specific people), e.g. *Bob, Eiffel Tower, Burnley, Wayne Rooney.*

**Verb** – a word that represents an action or process: in simple terms a ‘doing’ word, e.g. *running, falling, sleeping*.

**Active verb** – a word that represents a physical action, e.g. *jump, run, kill, slap, kiss, wallop, sleep.*

**Stative verb** – a word that represents a process that is often only mental, e.g. *think, love, ponder, believe, fear.*

**Adjective** – a describing word that modifies or gives more information about a noun, e.g. *red, tall, short, big, fat*.

**Superlative** – an adjective that displays the most extreme value of its quality, e.g. *most, biggest, smallest, worst, furthest, farthest, quietest, zaniest.* Most of the time superlatives end with ‘-est’.

**Comparative** – an adjective that relates one thing in some way to another and usually ends in ‘er’: *bigger, smaller, further, farther, quieter, zanier.*

**Adverb** – a describing word that modifies or gives more information about a verb, e.g. *slowly, quickly, rapidly, angrily, early, late*.

**Pronoun** – a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, e.g. *him, her, it, he, she, I, you, me, they.*

**First person pronoun** – *I,* and the first person plural: *we, our, us.*

**Second person pronoun** – *you.*

**Third person pronoun** – *him, her, he, she, it,* and the third person plural: *them, those.*

**Possessive pronoun** – *my, mine, our, your, his, hers, theirs.*

**Demonstrative pronoun** – *this, that, those.*

**Colloquial word / Colloquialism** – Informal language usage, e.g. *bloke, fella, lass, bestie, yeah.*

**Ellipsis** – a situation in which words are left out of a sentence and three dots are used so the sentence can still be understood. Also this is when three dots show an incomplete sentence or a cliff-hanger, e.g. *Suddenly, everything went dark…*

**Parenthesis** – brackets or dashes which add extra information, e.g. *Sally (who was in a rush) panted as she sprinted for the bus*.

**Hyperbole** – deliberate over-exaggeration, e.g. *I’m so hungry, I can eat a horse!*

**Metaphor** – a comparison that states that something is actually something else, e.g. *Take a leaf out of her book.*

**Extended metaphor** – when a metaphor continues throughout a text with recurring references to the compared item.

**Simile** – a comparison that states that something is ‘like’ or ‘as’ something else, e.g. *I drive like a demon.*

**Pathetic Fallacy** – when the environment or weather mirrors emotions, e.g. *when a character in a play is heartbroken and the weather is dark or raining.*

**Personification** – a device in which the non-human is given personal and human qualities, e.g. *the trees danced in the wind.*

**Semantics** – meanings built around a word, e.g. red semantically means danger.

**Juxtaposition** –placing together two or more words in a text for some effect, whether that be complimentary or contrasting, e.g. *While Jane sat, Jack stood*.

**Oxymoron** – The use of apparently contradictory or opposite words in a phrase, e.g. *peaceful war, hot ice*.

**Asyndetic Listing** – the listing of elements that excludes any conjunction, e.g. *I gave her food, shelter, clothing, everything.* This usually speeds up the pace of the text.

**Syndetic listing** – the listing of elements that features a co-ordinating conjunction, e.g. *I need to get eggs and cheese and milk and butter*. This usually slows down the pace of the text.

**Onomatopoeia** – when a word is spelled exactly as the same as the sound it describes, e.g. *kaboom, drip, plop, quack, bang, crash.*

**Assonance** – the repetition of vowel sounds, e.g. *you should wear a hood while you chop the wood good.* Assonance can create rhyme at times but not always.

**Alliteration** – the repetition of consonant sounds in a text, often at the beginning of words, e.g. *There was a big, bad bear in Brussels*.

**Sibilance** – the repetition of the ‘s’ sound at the beginning of words, e.g. *The sweet birds sang.*

**Caesura** - A mid-line pause in poetry, e.g. *As calm as a meadow, as loud as a city*.

**Enjambment** – When a line in poetry runs into the next line without punctuation at the end of the line, e.g:

*April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing*

**Quatrain** - A four-line verse in a poem

**Sestet** – A six-line verse in a poem

**Volta** - The turning point in a poem

**Stanza** - The division of lines in a poem, also called a verse

**Sentence types:**

**Imperative sentence** – a sentence issuing a command, e.g. *Finish your dinner*.

**Declarative sentence** – a sentence making a statement, e.g. *I feel tired*.

**Interrogative sentence** – when a sentence is asking a question, e.g. *Is it possible to have a glass of water?*

**Rhetorical question** – a question designed not to be answered, perhaps to pique interest or make a point; a stylistic choice, e.g. *You wouldn’t want that, would you?*

**Exclamatory sentence** – when a sentence conveys a strong sense of emotion, sense of alarm or overly strong emphasis.

**Simple sentence** - a sentence consisting of only one clause (a subject, verb and an object), e.g. The cat drank milk.

**Compound sentence** - a sentence with two or more simple sentences, e.g. The cat drank milk and the dog watched it enviously.

**Complex sentence** – a simple sentence joined by an additional part of the sentence that does not make sense independently, e.g. The cat drank milk and coughed up fur.

**Tricolon** – Three words or phrases, separated by a comma, e.g. I came, I saw, I conquered.

**Terms for novels or plays:**

**Genre** – category of fiction or type of text, e.g. romance, horror, thriller, tragedy, comedy, etc.

**Audience** – who the text is aimed at.

**Purpose** – the reason the text has been produced, e.g. to entertain, inform / describe, persuade.

**Foreshadowing** – the hinting at things to come through early elements of a story.

**Narrator** – the ‘voice’ that tells a fictional story. Can be a first, second or third person narrator (see personal pronouns to find out more).

**Protagonist** – the character the reader is meant to identify with the most and follow through the story. The hero (or anti-hero).

**Antagonist** – the character who opposes the goals of the protagonist. **Dialogue** – the presentation of character’s speech.

**Monologue / soliloquy** - a type of poem or a prolonged piece of drama where one ‘character’ delivers a speech that reveals their innermost feelings. Dramatic monologues can infer an addressee or audience who the speaking character is relating to.

**Dramatic irony** – When the audience is aware of more than one of the characters in

either a play or a piece of fiction to create a dramatic effect.

**Ambiguity** – when there can be more than one possible meanings or outcomes in a story, creating a sense of intrigue.