

General Terms

background knowledge

Knowledge based on prior exposure and experiences

categorize

To classify and place in a category

cause/effect

An action (cause) that brings about a result (effect)

compare/contrast

To compare two ideas or events, showing how they are similar or different

conclusion

The end or last part, often containing a summary

evidence

Proof

graphic organizers

Visual tools that help the reader organize information from a text (i.e., Venn Diagram, T-chart, Story Map, KWL Chart, web, time line, table, graph)

infer

To make an educated guess

opinion/fact

A belief vs. reality or an actual incident

paraphrase

To express in your own words to make clearer

perspective

Feelings, opinions, and experiences that affect a reader's outlook

predict

To say in advance what one thinks may happen

pro/con

For or against

retell

To tell orally or in writing what is remembered from the text

scan

To glance at quickly while looking for key information

sequence

One thing after another in a logical order

skim

To quickly read through a text to get the main idea of the passage

summarize

To state briefly the main points

theme (topic)

The big idea of the story that connects the characters, setting, and plot

Genres of Reading

genre

Type of text

literary (fiction)

A narrative that is imagined (i.e., historical fiction, folklore, short story)

nonfiction

Factual information about real people, places, or events

persuasive

Text that convinces you to believe something

practical living/workplace

Information for authentic purposes (i.e., directions, letters, schedules, recipes, job applications)

poetry

A piece of literature written in verse

Literary Devices and Terms

alliteration

Repetition of the first sound in words

dialogue

Characters' conversation in a story

foreshadowing

Giving a sign or suggestion of what will happen later in a story

form

A particular style of poetry (i.e., free verse, limerick, cinquain)

hyperbole

Figure of speech that exaggerates the truth

imagery

Creating mental pictures from descriptive words

metaphor

A word for one idea or thing that is used in place of another to suggest a likeness between them, e.g., "the ship plowing the sea"

monologue

A long speech given by one person without interruption

narrator

The one who is telling the story

personification

A figure of speech in which an object has the qualities of a person

script

The text of a play, broadcast, or movie

simile

A comparison between two unlike things, often using the words *like*, *as*, *seems*, *appears*, and *resembles*

stanza

A part of a poem, with two or more lines, which has a common, repeated pattern of rhythm or rhyme

story structure

Stories have a beginning, middle, and end.

Nonfiction Terms

article

A written work, often appearing in magazines or newspapers, which presents factual information

bold-faced type

Type with thick, heavy lines

caption

A brief title or explanation that describes an illustration

glossary

A list of words and their definitions, often found at the back of a book

headings

Titles within an article that identify each new topic

index

An alphabetized listing of terms or subjects that gives the page number where each item can be found in the text

italics

A style of printing with letters slanted to the right

key words

Vocabulary that is important in comprehending the text

table of contents

A listing of titles or broad topics of information found within the text

Story Elements

characters

People or animals in a story

conflict/solution

A resolution of a problem

plot

A description of the action in a story; what happened to whom and why

setting

The time and place a story occurs

Text Connections

text-to-text connections

Connecting common themes between texts

text-to-world connections

Relating the text to world events

text-to-self connections

Relating the text to one's own life experiences

Vocabulary Instruction

antonym

A word or phrase having the opposite meaning of another word or phrase

prefix

The syllable at the beginning of a word that changes the meaning of the word

compound words

Two words put together to make one word

suffix

The syllable at the end of a word that changes the meaning of the word

homonyms

Words that sound alike, but are spelled differently and have different meanings

synonym

A word or phrase having about the same meaning as another word or phrase