

## Year 9 – Useful Terminology for English Language and Literature

### Figurative Language & Literary Devices:

1. **Simile** – Comparing two things using "like" or "as" (e.g., "her smile was as bright as the sun").
2. **Metaphor** – A direct comparison between two things (e.g., "the world is a stage").
3. **Personification** – Giving human qualities to non-human things (e.g., "the wind whispered through the trees").
4. **Onomatopoeia** – Words that imitate sounds (e.g., "buzz," "bang").
5. **Alliteration** – Repetition of initial consonant sounds (e.g., "wild winds whipped the water").
6. **Assonance** – Repetition of vowel sounds (e.g., "the cool moon pooled light").
7. **Consonance** – Repetition of consonant sounds within or at the end of words in a line or stanza (e.g., "dark bark in the park").
8. **Hyperbole** – Exaggerated statements (e.g., "I've told you a million times!").
9. **Symbolism** – Using objects, colours, or events to represent deeper meanings (e.g., "the dove represents peace").
10. **Oxymoron** – Two contradictory terms placed together (e.g., "bittersweet").
11. **Irony** – A contrast between expectation and reality, often to highlight differences or create humour.
12. **Juxtaposition** – Placing two contrasting ideas, objects, or characters side by side to highlight their differences (e.g., "light and dark," "wealth and poverty").

### Structural Techniques:

1. **Foreshadowing** – Hints or clues about what will happen later in the story.
2. **Flashback** – A scene set earlier in time than the main story.
3. **Juxtaposition** – Placing two contrasting ideas or things side by side to emphasize differences or opposites.
4. **Repetition** – Repeating words or phrases for emphasis or effect.
5. **Enjambment** (poetry) – When a sentence or phrase runs over from one line to the next without a pause.
6. **Caesura** (poetry) – A deliberate pause or break in a line of poetry.
7. **Dialogue** – The spoken words between characters in a story or play.
8. **Climax** – The turning point or most intense moment in a story.
9. **Tension** – A feeling of suspense or anxiety created in the text.
10. **Narrative Perspective** – The point of view from which a story is told (first person, third person, etc.).

### Language & Grammar Terms:

1. **Adjective** – A word that describes a noun (e.g., "beautiful," "dark").
2. **Verb** – A word that represents an action or state (e.g., "run," "is").
3. **Adverb** – A word that modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb (e.g., "quickly," "very").
4. **Noun** – A word that represents a person, place, thing, or idea.

5. **Pronoun** – A word that takes the place of a noun (e.g., “he,” “she,” “it”).
6. **Connotation** – The ideas or feelings a word evokes in addition to its literal meaning.
7. **Tone** – The writer’s attitude or approach to the subject matter or audience (e.g., sarcastic, serious).
8. **Mood** – The atmosphere or emotional feeling of a text (e.g., gloomy, joyful).
9. **Imperative** – A command or directive (e.g., “Stop!”).
10. **Rhetorical Question** – A question asked for effect, not meant to be answered.

### Poetry-Specific Terms:

1. **Stanza** – A grouped set of lines in a poem, often separated by a space. Stanzas are like the “paragraphs” of poetry and can vary in length.
2. **Rhyme Scheme** – The pattern of rhyme at the end of each line in a poem, often described using letters (e.g., ABAB, AABB). Identifying the rhyme scheme can help show how a poet creates structure and mood.
3. **Meter** – The rhythmical pattern of stressed (/) and unstressed (x) syllables in a line of poetry. Common meters include:
  - **Iambic pentameter** – five pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables (e.g., “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”).
  - **Trochaic** – a stressed syllable followed by an unstressed one.
  - **Anapestic** – two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed one.
  - **Dactylic** – a stressed syllable followed by two unstressed ones.
4. **Rhythm** – The overall beat and flow of the poem, which can be created through meter, the arrangement of syllables, or the sound of the words.
5. **Free Verse** – Poetry that does not follow regular rhyme or meter patterns, giving the poet more freedom in structure. The lack of constraints allows for a more conversational or open form.
6. **Enjambment** – When a sentence or phrase in a poem continues beyond the end of a line without a pause, running into the next line. This can create a sense of movement or urgency (e.g., “The sun is shining, / and I must run”).
7. **Caesura** – A deliberate pause or break within a line of poetry, often marked by punctuation like a comma, period, or dash. It creates a dramatic effect or emphasis (e.g., “To be, or not to be – that is the question”).
8. **Alliteration** – The repetition of initial consonant sounds in words that are close together (e.g., “wild winds whistled wildly”).
9. **Assonance** – The repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words, often to create internal rhyming or to enhance mood (e.g., “the mellow bells of the evening swell”).
10. **Consonance** – The repetition of consonant sounds within or at the end of words in a line or stanza (e.g., “dark bark in the park”). This is similar to alliteration but doesn’t focus on the start of words.
11. **Sonnet** – A 14-line poem typically written in iambic pentameter and often following a strict rhyme scheme. There are two main types:
  - **Shakespearean (English) sonnet** – ABABCDDEFEGG rhyme scheme, with a final rhyming couplet.
  - **Petrarchan (Italian) sonnet** – An octave (8 lines) with an ABBAABBA rhyme scheme, followed by a sestet (6 lines) with various rhyme schemes like CDECDE or CDCDCD.

12. **Blank Verse** – Unrhymed poetry, usually written in iambic pentameter. Although it doesn't rhyme, blank verse has a structured meter that gives it a formal tone.
13. **Couplet** – A pair of rhyming lines, often at the end of a sonnet or a section of a poem, which can sum up or reinforce an idea (e.g., "So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, / So long lives this, and this gives life to thee").
14. **Quatrain** – A stanza of four lines, often with a rhyming pattern like ABAB or AABB.
15. **Volta** – The "turn" or shift in tone, mood, or argument in a poem, often seen in sonnets. In Petrarchan sonnets, the volta typically appears between the octave and sestet.