

# Important Literary Terms (Revised October 2012)

## Ideas, Periods and Movements

- Aesthetic Movement
- Augustan
- Elizabethan
- Enlightenment
- Expressionism
- Fin de Sicle
- Harlem Renaissance
- Humanism
- Imagism
- Impressionism
- Jacobean
- Magical Realism
- Modernism
- Naturalism
- Neoclassicism
- Neoplatonism
- Platonism
- Postmodernism
- Pre-Raphaelitism
- Realism
- Reformation
- Renaissance
- Restoration
- Romanticism
- Sentimentalism
- Surrealism
- Symbolist movement
- Transcendentalism
- Victorian

## Fiction

- Bildungsroman
- Episodic plot
- Epistolary Novel
- First Person
- Flat Character
- Focalizing (see Point of View)
- Frame Tale
- Free Indirect Style or Discourse
- Gothic Novel

- Interior Monologue
- Metafiction
- Narrator
- Novel of Manners
- Omniscient
- Picaresque Novel
- Plot
- Point of View (see focalizing)
- Polyglossia
- Romance (narrative)
- Round Character
- Stream of Consciousness
- Third Person
- Unreliable Narrator

## Drama

- Aside
- Catharsis
- Chorus
- Closet Drama
- Comedy
- Comedy of Humors
- Comedy of Manners
- Deus ex machina
- Dramatic Irony
- Epilogue
- Farce
- Hamartia
- Masque
- Melodrama
- Mime
- Morality Play
- Mystery Cycle
- New Comedy (Greek)
- Ode (Greek drama)
- Old Comedy (Greek)
- Prologue
- Protagonist
- Sentimental Comedy
- Soliloquy
- Stock Character

- Strophe/Antistrophe
- Tragedy
- Tragicomedy
- Unities

## Poetry

- Accent or beat
- Accentual-Syllabic Verse
- Accentual Verse
- Alexandrine
- Anapestic
- Alliteration
- Ballad
- Ballad Stanza
- Blank Verse
- Caesura
- Carpe Diem
- Confessional Poetry
- Dactylic
- Dramatic Monologue
- Eclogue
- Elegy
- Enjambment
- Epic
- Feminine or Double Rhyme
- Foot
- Free Verse
- Heroic Couplet
- Hexameter
- Iambic
- Internal Rhyme
- Incremental Repetition
- Lyric
- Metaphysical Poetry
- Meter
- Ode (nondramatic)
- Pastoral
- Pentameter
- Quatrain
- Refrain
- Rhyme
- Rhyme Scheme
- Rhythm
- Slant Rhyme
- Sonnet (English v. Italian Forms)
- Spenserian Stanza

- Spondaic
- Stanza
- Syllabic Verse
- Tercet
- Terza Rima
- Tetrameter
- Trochaic
- Verse

## Rhetoric & Style

- Allusions
- Anticlimax
- Antithesis
- Aphorism
- Apostrophe
- Bathos
- Epic
- Epigram
- Ethos
- Hyperbole
- Logos
- Metaphor
- Metonymy
- Mock Heroic
- Onomatopoeia
- Oxymoron
- Paradox
- Pathos
- Persona
- Personification
- Rhetoric
- Rhetorical Appeal
- Satire
- Simile and Epic Simile
- Symbol

## General Theoretical Terms

- Archetype
- Author Function
- Canon
- Conventions
- Deconstruction
- Dialogic
- Discourse
- Feminist Criticism

- Genre
- Grotesque
- Hermeneutics
- Hybridity (postcolonial)
- Intentional Fallacy
- Intertextuality
- Irony
- Linguistics
- Marxist Criticism
- Metanarrative
- Mimesis
- Myth
- Narratology
- New Criticism
- New Historicism
- Orientalism
- Pathetic Fallacy
- Parody
- Pastiche
- Postcolonial
- Poststructuralism
- Psychoanalytical Criticism
- Queer Theory
- Reader-Response Criticism
- Semiotics
- Signifier/Signified
- Simulacra
- Speech Act Theory
- Structuralism
- Subaltern
- Verisimilitude