



Appendix G: Glossary of Terms

academic vocabulary	the lexicon of words used in classroom contexts and associated with academic reading, writing, listening, and speaking
affix	a non-word morpheme that changes the meaning or function of a root or stem to which it is attached, e.g. the prefix <i>ad-</i> and the suffix <i>-ing</i> in <i>adjoining</i>
allusion	an indirect reference or expression within a literary text to some other event, person, place, object, or cultural or literary phenomenon
analyze	to carefully examine the structure and details of a text for the purposes of supporting a claim, argument, or idea, or to explain and interpret information
antonym	a word that means the opposite of another word (e.g., <i>hot</i> and <i>cold</i> are antonyms)
author's purpose	the author's intention for creating a particular piece of writing; a piece of writing may serve more than one purpose, for example, to entertain and persuade its audience
base word	a word to which prefixes and suffixes may be attached to create related words, e.g. <i>design</i> in <i>redesign</i> and <i>designer</i>
bias	a preference or partiality toward a certain stance, situation, or idea, especially one that is unfair; the influencing of personal opinion on judgment

central idea	an author's main or primary message about a topic, stated implicitly or explicitly
citation	a specific reference to an information source that appears within a text or as part of a reference list, especially in a scholarly work
clause	a group of words that contains a subject and predicate and functions as part of a complex or compound sentence
compare/contrast	a method utilized to show similarities and differences between two or more themes, central ideas, characters or individuals, structures, etc.
complex sentence	a sentence that combines a dependent clause with an independent clause
compound sentence	a sentence that contains more than one subject or predicate
compound word	a combination of two or more words that functions as a single unit of meaning
conceptual categories	categories that represent ideas such as colors, numbers, months, days of the week, position words, etc.
conflict	the struggle either within or between characters or individuals that is often the basis of the plot of a play or story, e.g. person vs. person, person vs. nature
conjunctive adverb	a word that demonstrates a connection between two independent clauses in a sentence, e.g. also, however, otherwise
connotation	the emotional association of a word; the ideas or feelings that are evoked in addition to a word's primary meaning/denotation

context clues	information found near a word or phrase and that helps the reader directly or indirectly identify the meaning of unknown words and phrases
coordinate adjective	an adverb that connects two independent clauses or sentences; adverbs used to modify two independent clauses, e.g. A <i>warm, dense</i> fog had settled over the lake.
credible	the quality of being trustworthy and factual, especially concerning information from diverse media sources and formats
cumulative adjective	a set of two or more adjectives that build upon one another and that follow a specific order according to rules of English grammar
decode	the process of translating a word from print to speech, usually by employing knowledge of letter-sound relationships; the act of deciphering a new word by sounding it out
denotation	the primary or literal (dictionary) definition of a word
dependent clause	a group of words that contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought, ex. <i>when the package arrived</i>
derivational suffix	a word formed by adding an affix to a root or stem
description	words and phrases in a piece of writing that help the reader create a mental picture
dialect	the particular phonological, grammatical, and lexical uses of language specific to peoples or regions
digraph	two letters that are read as a single sound (phoneme), e.g. ch for /ch/ in chin or /ea/ for /e/ in bread

domain-specific vocabulary	the words and phrases that are particular to a mode of writing, especially forms of academic writing
encode	to change a spoken word into writing, typically referred to as spelling
etymology	the study of the origins of words and how the meaning of words changes over time
euphemism	the substitution of a disagreeable or offensive word or phrase with one that is milder or more pleasant
explicit theme	a moral, lesson, or message, usually in a literary text, that is stated clearly or directly
expression	in oral reading, the pitch, tone, volume, and rhythm of speaking that creates meaning and conveys the ideas and emotions behind the text
figurative language	language enriched by word images and figures of speech
fluency	the ability to read, write, and speak clearly and effectively without the constraints of decoding, word recognition, or articulation errors
gerund	a verb form that is used as a noun and typically ends in <i>-ing</i> , e.g., <i>swimming</i> in “ <i>Swimming</i> is a great form of exercise.”
grapheme	a letter or letter combination that corresponds to a single phoneme, e.g. <i>ch</i> , <i>sh</i> , or <i>ough</i> in “ <i>though</i> ”
homograph	a word with the same spelling that as another word, whether or not it is pronounced alike, e.g. <i>pen</i> —a writing instrument and <i>pen</i> —an enclosure for an animal; homographs encompass homonyms and homophones

high-frequency words	words that occur most often in written English and consist of both irregular and temporarily irregular sound spellings; high-frequency words should be taught according to spelling patterns, and not according to frequency number or theme
hyperbole	an intentionally exaggerated figure of speech, such as "I have told you a million times"
idiom	an expression that cannot be interpreted based on its literal meaning, e.g. "Those jeans cost <i>an arm and a leg!</i> "
implied/implicit theme	a moral, lesson, or message, usually in a literary text, that is implied but not clearly or directly stated
independent clause	a group of words that contains a subject, verb, and expresses a complete thought
inference	a conclusion formed by a reader on the basis of evidence or reasoning rather than what is directly stated in a text
inflectional ending	a group of letters (suffix) added to the end of a word that changes the word's form or function but not its basic meaning, e.g. rain vs. raining
inflectional form	a process of word formation in which items are added to the base form of a word to express grammatical meaning, e.g., adding -s or -ed to look to form <i>looks</i> or <i>looked</i>
informational text	a type of nonfiction whose primary purpose is to inform the reader about a topic
intonation	the use of pitch to indicate particular meanings of spoken phrases, e.g., "You are!" and "You are?"
irony	a type of figurative language in which an idea or outcome is expressed as something other than or opposite of the literal meaning. e.g. verbal irony, e.g. verbal or situational irony

literary text	a piece of writing whose primary purpose is to tell a story or entertain a reader
medial vowel	the middle or central vowel(s) in a word, e.g. -ea in <i>beach</i>
metaphor	a figure of speech in which a comparison is implied by analogy but is not stated, e.g., "He is a snake!"
modes of writing	also known as rhetorical modes, the major purposes of writing and speaking
mood	the emotional response a writer evokes in the audience throughout a literary text
morphology	the study of the structure and forms of words, including derivation, inflection, and compounding
morpheme	the smallest meaningful unit in a writing system
narrative	a story, real or fictional, that is written or told orally and gives accounting of the events that occurred
non-restrictive clause	a group of words that adds additional information to a sentence; typically a proper or common noun that refers to a specific person, place, or thing
noun clause	a group of words that serves as a noun in a sentence
norms	commonly accepted practices or behaviors
onset and rime	onset: the consonant(s) preceding the first vowel in a monosyllabic word such as <i>fl-</i> in the word <i>fling</i> ; rime: the vowel and any following consonants of the word such as the <i>-ing</i> in the word <i>fling</i>

oxymoron	a figure of speech in which contrasting or contradictory words are brought together for emphasis, e.g., "clearly confused" or "minor catastrophe"
parallel structure	in grammar, the construction of phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or longer passages in the same grammatical structure, e.g. The kittens enjoyed <i>eating</i> , <i>playing</i> , and <i>napping</i> ; also known as parallelism
paraphrasing	the act of restating or rewording a portion of text; may be used to show understanding or to properly cite sources of information
phoneme	the smallest sound unit of speech, that when contrasted with another phoneme can change the meaning of a word, for example, if the phoneme /f/ in <i>fish</i> is replaced with the phoneme /d/, the word becomes <i>dish</i>
phonemic awareness	awareness of, and ability to manipulate, individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words
phonological awareness	awareness of various levels of the speech-sounds, including parts of sentences, words, syllables, accent patterns, onset-rimes, and phonemes
plagiarism	the practice of falsely representing the work of another writer as one's own
plot	the structure of the action of a story; the plot typically includes the exposition (beginning), rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
prefix	an affix attached before a base word or root
prose	any piece of writing that follows a basic grammatical structure or language that follows natural patterns in everyday speech, i.e. words arranged in sentences and/or paragraphs; distinguished from <i>poetry</i> which follows a metrical structure, i.e. lines and stanzas

prosody	reading with expression, proper intonation, and phrasing
publish	to prepare written material for presentation to an audience, whether informally to classmates or as a formal stage of the writing process
recursive	in a repetitive, systematic manner, especially as it relates to the revising and editing of written work
relative clause	a type of dependent clause, also known as an adjective clause, that functions as an adjective and gives additional information about a noun
retell	the act of a reader telling what happened in a passage or story they have just read, in his or her own words
rhetorical style	a particular manner of spoken or written discourse for the purpose of persuading or influencing an audience
rime	see onset and rime
root word	the part of a word that carries the basic unit of meaning for a more complex word; the root word cannot be broken down further without loss of meaning
sequence	the linear arrangement or order of subject matter; the logical progression of events in a story
setting	the physical and psychological background against which the action in a story takes place; it may also include the time or period in which a narrative occurs
simile	a figure of speech that compares two unlike things using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> , e.g., "That idea went over <i>like a concrete balloon.</i> "

spatial	an organizational pattern (i.e. chronological, cause-and-effect) of writing in which information about objects is presented according to their physical position relative to other objects; the arrangement of ideas according to their relationship with one another
subordinating conjunction	a type of conjunction used to introduce a subordinate clause, e.g., <i>because, for, as, since, though, due to, provided that, unless, so/so that</i>
style	the characteristic way in which an author conceives of and expresses ideas through language
suffix	an affix attached to the end of a base, root, or stem that changes the meaning or grammatical function of the word, e.g., <i>-ing</i> added to <i>hike</i> or <i>-en</i> added to <i>ox</i> to form <i>oxen</i>
syllabication	the division of words into syllables
synonym	two or more words in a language that have highly similar meanings, e.g., <i>sadness, grief, and sorrow</i>
syntax	the arrangement of words and phrases according to their associated grammar rules in order to create well-formed sentences
text	written or printed work that is understood in terms of its content rather than its physical form; the entirety of a linguistic communication; any of the varied forms of printed or written words; the main body of a book or other printed resource that is separate and distinct from other text features such as illustrations, sidebars, etc.; the original and actual wording of a written or printed communication
text complexity	the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of a text that contribute to its relative challenge for the reader; includes its meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands as well as factors related to the reader and the reading task

text features	parts of a particular type of text such as chapter titles, sub-headings, and bold-faced words, that help a reader to readily locate information, or to determine how that information is organized
theme	the major idea or proposition broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work; may also refer to the life lesson or moral to be learned from a work of prose or poetry
tone	the inflections that mark the speech of a person or region; a particular style in speaking or writing, generally appropriate to the intended audience
trigrap	group of three consecutive letters that are read as a single sound (phoneme), e.g., -tch in catch; -igh in night; -ure in closure
voice	see formal voice and informal voice