

Independent Reading Unit: Key Terms

conflict - an issue that a character is having with oneself or another character

critique - a detailed analysis and assessment of something...in our case, text

dialogue - characters talking out loud in a story

narration - the words of the narrator of a story. Not in quotation marks, not spoken out loud

perspective - the unique view that any character takes to a situation or story

plot - the concept of a story; characters, setting, conflict(s)

point of view - the perspective that a story was written from; 1st person, 2nd person, limited 3rd person, omniscient 3rd person

setting - the time and place of a story (time meaning time period.
Past/present/future)

scenes - a piece of a text where characters interact during a set period of time in a set place.

tension - See WOTW

theme - the message or life lesson that the reader is meant to take from a text

tone - the way words are said that creates a certain mood with the reader

word choice - analysis of why an author used certain words in a text, as opposed to other words

Genres of Fiction

Genres and their characteristics

1 | Realistic Fiction

- Could, in theory, have happened...but didn't.
- Minor details that are specific to the time period may be present, but do not significantly affect the story.
- Examples?

2 | Historical Fiction

- Could, in theory, have happened in the past, but did not happen as written.
- The setting of the story is historically accurate and important in world history.
- Plot, dialogue, characters, conflicts all accurate to the time period.
- Examples?

Genres and their characteristics

3 | Science Fiction

- Could not happen as described today.
- Takes place in the future, or in a fictional place in the past.
- Computers/technology a point of emphasis.
- Usually comments on issues in society.
- Examples?

4 | Fantasy

- Could not happen as described today.
- Takes place in the future, or in a fictional place in the past.
- Characters have “out of this world” capabilities; magic, un-human abilities.
- Sometimes used as a metaphor to describe current society.
- Examples?