

Literary Terms Study Guide- Literary terms to choose from:

- Climax
- Foreshadowing
- Flashback
- Imagery
- Metaphor
- Mood
- Narrator
- Personification
- Setting
- Symbol
- Theme
- Tone
- Protagonist
- Point of View
- Conflict
- Allusion
- Onomatopoeia
- Irony
- Satire
- Hyperbole

Fill in the blanks: The object of this exercise is to match the word with the definition provided.

1. _____ is a literary device that allows writers to show their audience specific events that happened before the current action of the story.
2. _____ is how the writer feels about his subject that comes through based upon the types of words chosen.
3. _____ is how the reader feels about the story.
4. _____ is an abstraction that represents the central idea of the story.
5. _____ tells the story either in the first, second or third person point of view.
6. _____ is the most exciting part of a story where all of the main conflict comes together.
7. _____ is when the author hints at actions that will come in the future.
8. _____ is a word that describes words that represent sounds.
9. _____ is a comparison of two different things to make them more alike.
10. _____ is when authors give human traits to animals or some other lifeless object.
11. _____ is a writer's vivid description that help readers visualize.
12. _____ is a concrete or physical object that represents an abstract concept.
13. _____ is when a writer makes a reference to another historical event, book, or person.
14. _____ is the main character of the story who undergoes some change or transformation.
15. _____ is the problem, struggle, decision, or dilemma a characters is faced with.
16. _____ refers to what perspective the story is told from.
17. _____ The time and place of a story

Directions: Match the example with one of the literary terms above. (theme, metaphor, personification, irony, setting, symbol,)

1. _____ Time is money
2. _____ The house stared angrily at its new occupants
3. _____ A flag represents freedom
4. _____ Ideas about Greed, Love, Sadness
5. _____ New York, New York, at the turn of the century
6. _____ "Gentlemen! You can't fight in here. This is the war room." (*Dr. Strangelove*)

Identify and explain the following examples of Literary Devices. Be sure to tell which device is being used and how it operates to create meaning in the passage.

1. "...A persistent organ sound as the full bellows of the earth blew the frogs full of life" (Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, 25).

2. "The building was cavernous and dark. It had strange, unfamiliar smells and sounds that seemed to gurgle from its belly" (Lee, *TKM*, 57).

3. "He adjusted the pack...on his back...Still, it was too heavy. It was much too heavy" (Hemingway, "Big Two-Hearted River", 179).

4. "Calpurnia was something else again...her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard" (Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 6).

Literary Devices Review-Quotes

In the following quote Huck Finn is experiencing an internal conflict about whether or not to tell the truth. What type of figurative language is used in the following quote, and what meaning is expressed through its use? "I'll up and tell the truth this time, though it does seem most like setting down on a kag of powder and touching it off just to see where it will go" (141).

Analyze the following quote. Include a discussion of at least three of the following literary devices: Connotation, tone, metaphor, simile, personification, satire, and irony. What is Twain's message about this scene?

"It was one of these regular summer storms. It would get so dark that it looked all blue-black outside, and lovely; and the rain would thrash along by so thick that the trees off a little ways looked dim and spider-webby; and here would come a blast of wind that would bend the trees down and turn up the pale underside of the leaves; and then a perfect ripper of a gust would follow along and set the branches to tossing their arms as if they was just wild; and next, when it was just about the bluest and blackest-*fst!* It was as bright as glory and you'd have a little glimpse of tree tops a-plunging about, away off yonder in the storm...dark as sin again in a second, and now you'd hear the thunder let go with an awful crash and then go rumbling, grumbling, tumbling down the sky toward the underside of the world, like rolling empty barrels down stairs, where it's long stairs and they bounce a good deal, you know" (37). (40 pts.)

Literary Devices Practice Test

Please read all directions carefully. Answer a, b, c, or d for all questions.

I. Story Terms:

- The elements of a story are:
 - mood, theme, beginning, middle, end
 - author, reader, book, paper, ink
 - plot, setting, characters, conflict, theme, point of view
 - mood, characters, conflict, setting, plot
- In order, what are the parts of a traditional story outline?
 - introduction, conflict, problem, resolution, ending
 - introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, conclusion
 - drama, comedy, tragedy, action, adventure
 - characters, problem, theme, mood, interpretation
- The _____ in a story is made of both time and place.
 - conflict
 - setting
 - characterization
 - moral
- The main character in a novel or play who keeps the action moving forward is the _____.
 - main man
 - heroine
 - prologue
 - protagonist
- A short story that has animals for characters and teaches a lesson is called a _____.
 - fable
 - fairy tale
 - short story
 - limerick
- A story's plot outline follows which pattern?
 - setting, theme, tone, irony
 - beginning, middle, resolution
 - beginning, problem, character introduction, conclusion
 - introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
- Some tales have a "twist" in the plot. This discrepancy between what a reader expects to happen and what really does happen is _____.
 - inversion
 - satire
 - irony
 - suspense
- The events or conflict in a story makes up the _____.
 - action
 - middle
 - imagination
 - adventure
- The evil, bad guy in a story is the _____.
 - hero
 - antagonist
 - protagonist
 - character
- When an author writes about his/her own life, it is a(n) _____.
 - true story
 - play
 - autobiography
 - anthology
- Writing is divided into types called _____.
 - genres
 - categories
 - biographies
 - moods
- The way a story is organized is called the _____.
 - model
 - genre
 - dialogue
 - structure

13. The overall meaning of the story or piece of writing is the _____.
- a. mood b. theme c. genre d. plot
14. A story with a sad ending is a _____.
- a. play b. moral c. biography d. tragedy
15. What are some types of conflict characters encounter?
- a. happy, sad, old-fashioned, modern
b. person vs. person, person/society, person/self, person/nature, person vs. supernatural or person vs. God
c. monster, goblin, warrior, sorcerer, troll
d. gambling, drinking, fighting, lying, stealing
16. Many fantasy and adventure stories include a _____ as the basis for their plot.
- a. fantasy b. quest c. ghost d. car
17. A person trying to survive a terrible storm is an example of _____.
- a. flashback b. biography c. man vs. nature d. stereotype
18. The person telling the story is called the _____.
- a. narrator b. protagonist c. villain d. character
19. The words characters think or say out loud are called _____.
- a. talking b. dialogue c. conflict d. point of view
20. A one-dimensional, narrowly defined character may be a _____.
- a. animated b. villain c. personification d. stereotype
21. **Point of view** is revealed as the
- a. narrator tells everything that happens
b. main character experiences the events
c. writer communicates in his/her own voice
d. one character sees things from his/her perspective
22. When hints are given about what is to come later in a story, it is called
- a. foreshadowing b. flashback c. mystery d. plot
23. A reader can tell a lot about the characters by
- a. what they say, what others say about them, and by the character's actions
b. by reading the whole book before judging the person in the story
c. by reading the blurb on the back of the book
d. by assuming the character fits a stereotype
24. An author may intentionally use objects, colors, images, names, and events as _____ in a story.
- a. themes b. moods c. symbols d. important events
25. The mood (or the feeling you get when you read a piece of writing) can also be called the _____.
- a. tone b. rhythm c. structure d. voice

II. Literary Devices, Figurative Language & Poetry

26. A figure of speech in which the noise for a sound is written out is
a. rhyme b. clattering c. onomatopoeia d. sound bites
27. Which is an example of “imperfect rhyme”?
a. work/jerk b. right/tree c. fresh/clean d. design/mind
28. A form of Japanese poetry that presents a picture of nature and has three lines is
_____.
a. haiku b. ninjitsu c. sumo verse d. ode
29. Poetry lines grouped together are _____.
a. paragraphs b. couplets c. stanzas d. cinquains
30. Which kind of poem or song tells a story in verse?
a. haiku b. free verse c. ballad d. sonnet
31. Extreme exaggeration is a figure of speech called _____.
a. plagiarism b. poetry c. symbolism d. hyperbole
32. The figure of speech in which animals, objects, or ideas are given the characteristics of a person is called _____.
a. metaphor b. personification c. synecdoche d. symbolism
33. A simile:
a. compares two things using “like” or “as”
b. measures two things about the same size
c. compares two things using “is” or “was”
d. is when an author expresses emotion
34. Which point of view is told from one character’s viewpoint?
a. omniscient b. first person (limited omniscient)
c. neutral/objective view d. narrator
35. Which of the following is not a type of conflict?
a. person versus person
b. person versus society
c. person versus identity
d. person versus nature
36. A poem with four lines per stanza is called a _____.
a. sonnet b. cinquain c. limerick d. quatrain

Numbers 37-47 are examples of literary devices. Please use these for your answers:

a. simile b. metaphor c. onomatopoeia d. personification

37. My locker is a garbage dump.
38. The moon was as round as a glowing baseball.
39. A diet of chips and soda is a death threat.
40. *Swish*, went the basketball into the hoop.
41. The cave gleamed an invitation, and then winked, mischievously.
42. The summer was as short as a chocolate ice cream.
43. The angry girls fought like hungry wolves.
44. The forest floor cried out in pain as the soldiers fell, wounded.
45. *Pop, crackle, snap* was disturbingly loud that early morning.
46. The trees waved gracefully in the wind.
47. The day off from school was a winning lottery ticket!

Numbers 48-60 are examples of literary devices.

Use these for your answers to identify each literary example.

a. irony b. suspense c. foreshadowing d. flashback

48. "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink!"
49. "Don't move! The snake could be anywhere. It could be crawling up the leg of his pajamas!" From "*Poison*" by Roald Dahl.
50. He recalled a more peaceful time...he had been only seven years old...
(we see the setting change to the old house...)
51. "Stay out of the basement! The ghosts are down there! No one can open their containment cells, except my uncle." From *Thirteen Ghost*, a movie.
52. Things had been different since the high altitude incident. Before she had been trapped on the ice-covered mountain, she had been sure the world was a safe place. But then it happened! ... Eliza closes her eyes and remembers the ropes coming undone!
53. "I passed down a long and winding staircase, requesting him to be cautious as he followed. We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together on the damp ground of the catacombs of the Montresors." From *The Cask of Amontillado* by Edgar Allen Poe.
54. Readers expect certain things to happen in a story. When the opposite occurs, it is _____.
55. If a great big, strong elephant is afraid of a little mouse, it's _____.
56. If a spider's bite actually cured a rare disease, it would be _____.
57. If magic powers only caused trouble and didn't help anyone, it would be _____.
58. If a man chose a beautiful princess, but would have been happier with the ugly maid, it would be _____.
59. When earlier events are shown in the story, this is _____.
60. The more I know, the more I want to learn. This is an example of _____.

Tone Examples for Review

1. What is the best word for the tone in this excerpt from *The Great Gatsby*?

He smiled understandingly—much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced—or seemed to face—the whole eternal world for an instant, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor.

- A. Ironic
- B. Disillusioned
- C. Appreciative

2. Which one of these lines is the best example of a nostalgic tone?

- A. I didn't go to the moon, I went much further—for time is the longest distance between two places. (*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams)
- B. He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past. (*1984* by George Orwell)
- C. Scars have the strange power to remind us that our past is real. (*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy)

Explain how the diction in the following excerpts conveys the author's attitude (tone) about the subject.

3. Neighbors bring food with death and flowers with sickness and little things in between. Boo was our neighbor. He gave us two soap dolls, a broken watch and chain, a pair of good-luck pennies, and our lives. But neighbors give in return. We never put back into the tree what we took out of it: we had given him nothing, and it made me sad.

4. I couldn't forgive [Tom] or like him, but I saw that what he had done was, to him, entirely justified. It was all very careless and confused. They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.

DETERMINING TONE

EXERCISE I: Circle the letter of the word that most clearly expresses the tone in each passage. If you are unfamiliar with any of the words, look them up before you select the correct answer.

1. Often you feel you've done nothing when you've actually done a lot. That's because what you did do seemed beneath notice—it was so small that it didn't "count." But it did—just as each stitch counts toward a finished dress, each brick or nail toward a house you can live in, each mistake toward knowing how to do things right.

 - a. hesitant
 - b. encouraging
 - c. amused
2. A vaccine is a preparation of killed or weakened germs that is injected under the skin and causes the blood to produce antibodies against the disease. Effective vaccines, for instance, have been developed for small pox, rabies, and polio.

 - a. objective
 - b. arrogant
 - c. regretful
3. We have come together this afternoon to mourn the deaths of sixteen miners—our friends and neighbors—who were trapped by fire yesterday, deep below the earth. They lived bravely and they died too soon, leaving behind grieving wives and bewildered children. We bid them a final farewell.

 - a. forgiving
 - b. sorrowful
 - c. angry
4. Why do these things always happen to me?, Brad wondered. First I forget an important meeting, and nobody reminds me until it's over. Then my boss dumps a big project on my desk and wants it done by yesterday. And to top everything off, I leave my wallet on the bus.

 - a. comic
 - b. self-pitying
 - c. optimistic
5. Each year in the middle of February, when slush is underfoot and the sky is a depressing gray, I begin dreaming of warm beaches, tropical fruits and sunsets. If only I could save enough for a winter vacation! Maybe next year I'll win the lottery. Meanwhile, I'll read travel brochures and sigh.

 - a. unsure
 - b. joyous
 - c. longing

6. We are seriously failing our nation's teenagers when it comes to education concerning AIDS. Somehow we must convince them, without delay, that this terrible illness can happen to them, not just too isolated groups in big cities. Let's give them the information they need to protect themselves—before it's too late.
- impassioned
 - mocking
 - ironic
7. What's the matter with those idiots in the city council? First they pass new parking regulations saying we can't park our cars in front of our own houses without a special permit. Now they've gone and slapped another tax on gas purchase—just to widen a road that's already wide enough. Anyway, nobody enjoys the traffic delays resulting from road construction. The sooner we vote those incompetents out, the better off we'll all be.
- objective
 - angry
 - surprised
8. Yet another public figure has come forward to announce he has signed into an addiction-treatment center to deal with his alcohol problems. Reports say he has shown courage and honesty. Perhaps so, but what it really takes to enter a treatment center is money. What about the poor man, like my father, who may also have a drinking problem—and courage—but who doesn't happen to have \$500.00 a day for a fancy rest home?
- bitter
 - revengeful
 - sentimental
9. Botulism, a type of rare, severe food poisoning, has been reported recently in New Jersey. It is believed that the victim, who is in critical condition at a local hospital, was stricken after eating from a jar of incorrectly preserved homegrown green beans from last summer's garden. It has been ten years since the last instance of botulism poisoning was reported in the state.
- light-hearted
 - serious
 - tragic
10. Sure, litterbugs account for a lot of the trash blowing around our city's streets, but there are other villains too. What about people who set out their trash days ahead of their scheduled trash pickup time? Worse yet are the stores that pile boxes in back alleys, and restaurants whose mounds of green—bagged trash draw rodents and roaches.
- critical
 - tolerant
 - depressed