

11 Aspects of Language

Task 5 Aspects of Language - A Glossary

- 1 We have seen in the example 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' by Wilfred Owen on the previous page, that to fully appreciate the writer's ideas and themes (viewpoint), we must look carefully at the aspects of language and text conventions they use (techniques). Learning the glossary of language features on the following pages is essential. For each aspect of language you will need to know the name, the meaning and the effect it has in a text.

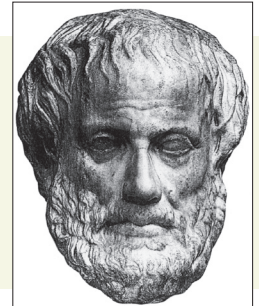
	Language Feature	Definition and Usual Purpose	Example
IMAGERY	figurative imagery	The things and actions that are not literally (really) there in the scene being described. Uses metaphor, simile or hyperbole.	<i>The pond shimmered in the moon light like a starlet's gown on the red carpet.</i>
	hyperbole	A type of exaggeration used in literature. A figure of speech.	<i>Spectacular views are assured from this house.</i>
	imagery	A general term. Use 'literal imagery', 'figurative imagery', 'metaphor', 'simile', 'personification', instead. Imagery is derived from making comparisons based on the senses; sound, sight, smell, touch and taste.	<i>The animal was clearly wild, its eyes were as big as saucers with fear.</i>
	literal imagery	The things and actions that are literally (really) there in the scene being described.	<i>A hammock is stretched between two trees and a log cabin stands behind that.</i>
	metaphor	Comparing one thing (person, object or action) to another by saying it is the other.	<i>'The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas'.</i>
	personification	A type of metaphor comparing inanimate (non-living) objects with humans by giving them human emotions, physical gestures, speech traits and characteristics.	<i>My computer throws a fit every time I turn it on.</i>
	simile	A type of figurative imagery using <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , or <i>than</i> to compare two separate items with one another.	<i>Ali charged into the ruck like a young bull.</i>
SOUND DEVICES	alliteration	Starting a sequence of words with the same consonant sound. This adds impact and memorability. It can speed up or slow down the phrase and create onomatopoeia.	<i>The <u>b</u>each <u>b</u>um went <u>b</u>erserk.</i>
	assonance	Using the same vowel sound in two or more words together.	<i>h<u>i</u>gh f<u>i</u>ve</i>
	onomatopoeia	The word creates the sound it describes.	<i>hiss, meow, scratch</i>
	repetition	The same word(s) are repeated more than once within a sentence. Used to emphasise the word (i.e. the idea).	<i>Piercings are cool, the pain is cool, the infections are cool.</i>
	rhyme	Using words that end in the same sounds, e.g. <i>op shop, Dizzie Lizzie</i> . Rhyme is the most striking sound effect. Rap music employs it.	<i>I had a cat who wore a hat He looked cool but felt a fool.</i>
	rhythm	Using the natural beat in the syllables of the words to create a striking sound pattern. This gives a pleasing sound to the statement as heard.	Listen to the beats in : <i>Polly put the kettle on.</i>
LANGUAGE FEATURES	anecdote	A brief story included in the text. It can make an explanation clearer or more convincing. It can also add interest or humour to the text.	<i>Without a thought he dived in - tedious childhood lessons at the subtropical Tepid Baths were about to pay off.</i>
	antonym	Word meaning the opposite. Used in text for contrast, irony or sarcasm.	<i>Well that was <u>clever</u> of you. How are we going to repair it now!</i>
	cliché	Catchy sayings. Used to get an idea across quickly or to create a feeling of ordinariness.	<i>The answer was on the tip of my tongue.</i>
	colloquial language	Words and sentences that are more normal in spoken than written English. (slang and incomplete sentences)	<i>Cuppa time mate!</i>
	emotive words	Words which convey the writer's emotions, or create the emotions in the reader that the writer wants in order to achieve his purpose.	<i>Freddie cradled his friend in his arms as the blood flowed and his life ebbed away.</i>
	exaggeration	Saying something by expressing it in a much more extreme way.	<i>Jenny's first drawing at kindergarten was totally awesome. She has real talent.</i>
	innuendo	A statement that hints at something bad about the other person.	<i>She's thirteen going on twenty, perhaps not.</i>
irony	Saying something is different from what you really mean. Usually this means saying the opposite or contradicting what you mean. Used to amuse and create a closer relationship with the reader (irony is a kind of humour).	<i>"The forward pack waddled towards the halfway line like a bunch of fluffy ducks following momma duck into the scrum."</i>	

Plot Structure

Plot structure was first described by the ancient Greeks. The philosopher Aristotle reckoned that good plots had these elements and in this order :

- Exposition** : The characters and the situation are introduced
Complication : The main character struggles with a conflict or problem
Turning Point (Climax) : The main character finally wins or loses in a decisive event
Resolution : The final outcome for the main characters is told

Exam questions often explore these ideas (although they may not use the same words).



Task 6 Parts of the Plot

- 1 Here is a summary of the Little Red Riding Hood story. Draw an arrow from each plot event on the left to show which plot element the event belongs to. The elements are not equal in size, some have more events than others.

Plot Event

- a) Little Red Riding Hood lived with her mother in a little house by a great wood.
- b) Her grandmother lived in a cottage on the other side of the wood.
- c) Grandmother was not in very good health.
- d) Mother sent the girl to take a basket of goodies to her grandmother.
- e) She warned her not to stray from the path.
- f) Soon the girl did stray, to pick flowers.
- g) A wolf appeared and spoke to her.
- h) She told him about her visit and he left.
- i) He ran to the cottage and swallowed Grandma.
- j) He disguised himself as Grandma and got into her bed.
- k) The girl arrived and was fooled at first.
- l) The wolf tried to catch the girl to eat her.
- m) She ran from him, screaming, but was trapped.
- n) A woodcutter heard the screams and came running.
- o) He chopped the wolf's head off.
- p) He cut the wolf open and Grandma popped out.
- q) All three sat down and ate the goodies from the basket.
- r) They all lived happily ever after.

Plot Element

Exposition

Complication

Major Turning Point

Resolution



