Apostrophe

 A direct address to an object, to an idea, or to an absent or dead person.

Examples in Macbeth

Talking to the dagger, Banquo's ghost

Blank Verse

Verse written in unrhymed iambic pentameter

Examples in Macbeth

-Pretty much the whole play

Character

 Any person, animal, or other being that plays a role in a story

Climax

 In a narrative, the moment at which the conflict reaches its highest dramatic tension

Connotation

The figurative meanings of a word

Examples

Night: horror, terror, romantic, death, destruction.

Couplet

Two consecutive rhyming lines of poetry.

Examples for Macbeth:

I go and it is done. The bell invites me.

Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell

That summons thee to heaven or to hell (pg 52)

It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight If it find heaven, must find it out tonight (94)

Denotation

The literal, dictionary meanings of a word

Doppelganger: (daw-puhl-geng-er)

- A mysterious figure, often haunting, which is in some way the double of another character.
- Examples:

Dramatic Irony

- Any situation in which the audience understands more about the characters' words or actions than the characters do themselves
- Examples

The audience knows Macbeth will be thane of Cawdor before the witches make that prophecy.

Epiphany

 A sudden, powerful, and often spiritual or life changing realization

Example:

Figure of Speech

 Any expression that stretches the meaning of words beyond their literal meanings

Foil

 A character who, by comparison, brings the characteristics of another character into relief

Examples:

Banquo, Lady Macbeth, Macduff

Foreshadowing

Any clue or hint of future events in a literary work.

Example:

When Macbeth murders King Duncan and hears a voice saying, "sleep no more, Macbeth doth murder sleep."

Hubris

Excessive pride that leads to the protagonist's downfall.

Example:

Macbeth believes he can beat/outwit the witches prophecies. Therefore, he has Banquo killed and does not fear Macduff.

Hyperbole

Any kind of exaggeration.

lambic Pentameter

 Each line of verse has five iambic feet (unstressed syllable followed by stressed syllable). Most of Shakespeare's work is in iambic pentameter.

Metaphor

 A comparison of two things that does not use the words "Like" or "As".

Example:

"Life is but a walking shadow; a poor player/ That struts and frets his hour upon the stage/And then is heard no more." Macbeth

Monologue

 A speech of a single character. If the character is alone on the stage, the monologue is called a soliloquy and may represent the thoughts of the character.

Oxymoron

 The association of two conflicting terms, as in the word "bittersweet".

Personification

 The attribution of personal or human characteristics to animals, things, or ideas.

Example:

Shakespeare personifies death as an attacking enemy.

Plot

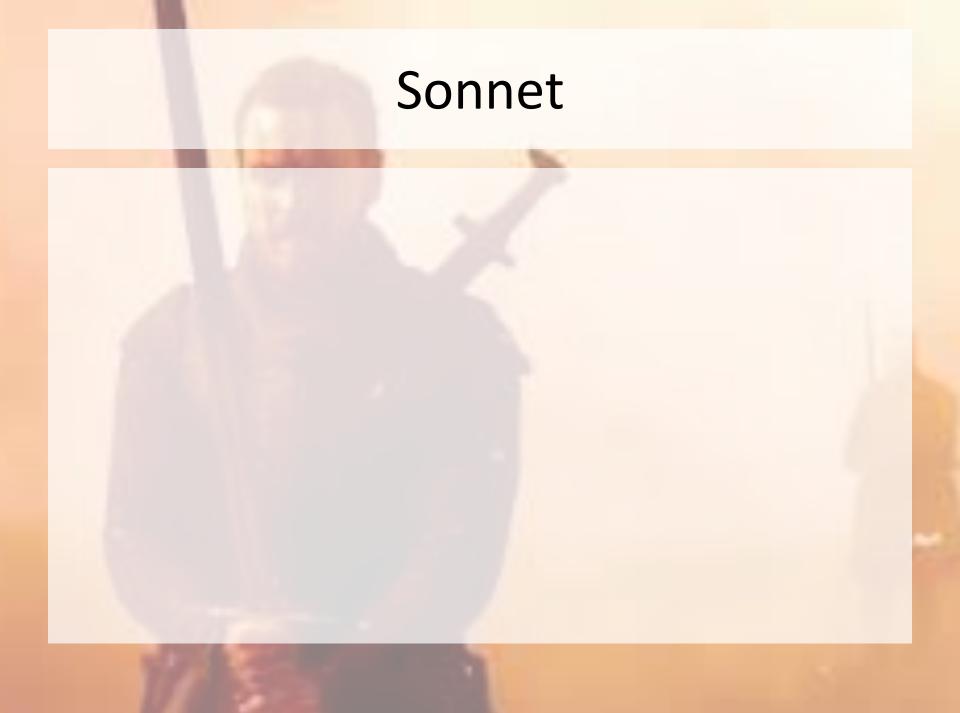
 The arrangement of events in a narrative, including their order, their relative emphasis, and the implied causal connections between them.

Protagonist

The main character in a literary work.
 Typically the protagonist undergoes some kind of change or development over the course of the story.

Satire

 A work that exposes to ridicule the shortcomings of individuals, institutions, or society, often to make a political point.



Subplot

 A secondary plot. A subplot serves as a point of contrast or comparison to the main plot.

Symbol

 An object, character, image, or another element that represents an abstract idea or concept.

Example:

In Macbeth blood represents guilt.

Tragedy

A serious play that ends unhappily for the protagonist.

Tragic flaw

 The flaw that leads to the downfall of a tragic character.

Example:

Macbeth's tragic flaw is ambition.

Irony

 The use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning.