

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

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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

Doppelgänger: (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.

Iambic 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.

Sonnet



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.