

The Strange and Mysterious

8th Grade ELA



Literary Terms

Foreshadowing: A writer's use of hints or clues to indicate events that will occur in a story. Foreshadowing creates suspense and at the same time prepares the reader for what is to come.

Genre: A category of literature. The main literary genres are fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

Irony: The contrast between expectation and reality. This incongruity has the effect of surprising the reader or viewer. Techniques of irony include hyperbole, understatement, and sarcasm.

Motive: The goal, or object of a person's actions. Something that causes someone to act in a certain way.

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds in words. For example, *rough and ready*.

Allusion: A reference in literature, or in visual or performing arts, to a familiar place, thing, or event. Allusions to biblical figures and figures from classical mythology are common in Western literature.

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Mood: The feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader.

Resolution: Also called *denouement*, the portion of a play or story where the problem is solved. The resolution comes after the climax and falling action, and is intended to bring the story to a satisfactory end.

Rule of Three: When the number three (3) recurs, especially in folk literature and fairy tales. *For example, three characters, three tasks, repetition of an event three times.*

Style: A writer's unique way of communicating ideas. The particular way a piece of literature is written, not only what is said, but how it is said. Elements contributing to style include word choice, sentence length, tone, figurative, language, and use of dialogue.

Symbol: A person, place, or object that represents something beyond itself. Symbols can succinctly communicate complicated, emotionally rich ideas.

Symbolism: In literature, the serious and extensive use of symbols.