**English 12 Terminology in *Othello***

**Metaphor:** A comparison between two things without using words such as “like” or “as.” An extended metaphor is a metaphor that is extended through a stanza or entire poem.

**Simile:** A comparison between two things using words such as “like,” “as,” or “than.”

**Personification:** Giving human qualities / characteristics to animals or objects or ideas.

**Hyperbole:** An over-exaggeration. It may be used for serious or comic effect.

**Imagery:** Vivid mental pictures created through words that appeal to the senses and emotions.

**Oxymoron:** Two words with the opposite meanings, used together to create a new meaning.

**Paradox:** A statement that seems to contradict itself. *Example: In my beginning is my end.*

**Apostrophe:** Device of addressing the absent as if present, or the inanimate (sea, wind, tree, etc.) or the abstract as if it could respond. Often used to express powerful emotions. Used in parody, satire, or humor to exaggerate feelings.

**Allusion:** This refers to the inclusion of unacknowledged quotations from other works and references to historical events and any aspect of human cultures.

**Pun:** A play on words in which a word or phrase can be taken to mean more than one thing.

**Tone:** The author’s attitude toward his/her subject or reader. It is similar to tone of voice.

**Mood:** The emotional colouring of the literary work; the feeling it evokes.

**Foreshadowing:** This is when the author presents the reader with a “sign” or “hint” of what is to happen later. Foreshadowing prepares the reader for the climax, the resolution and for any changes in the characters.

**Epiphany:** a moment of awareness that results in an altered perception.

**Theme:** Theme is the central idea of a literary work. It is the underlying message, usually implied rather than directly stated. It is the author’s purpose for writing (an expression of his/her attitude toward some universal truth). \*Remember: all literary works have a theme. Some have more than one!

**Symbolism:** The use of one object to represent another.

**Symbol:** Something that is “itself” and also stands for something else. Ex: A flag is a piece of coloured cloth that stands for a country.

**Irony:** A literary device that occurs when there is a difference between what is said and what is meant, or what is expected and what actually happens. There are three types of irony:

**a) Verbal:** when the writer or character says one thing and means something entirely different.

**b)** **Situational:** when there is a difference between the expected results and what actually happens.

**c) Dramatic:** when the reader or audience knows something that the character does not know.

**SOUND DEVICES**

**Alliteration:** Therepetition of the initial consonant sounds of words.

**Assonance:** The repetition of vowel sounds. *Example:*  *mad as a hatter.*

**Consonance:** The repetition of consonants at the end of words. *Example: odds and ends.*

**Onomatopoeia:** Words whose sounds seem to resemble the sounds that they describe.

**Euphony:** Speech sounds that sound pleasant or musical to the ear. *Example: swift and slippery serpents slid and slithered silkily, whispering sinful secrets.*

**Cacophony:** The opposite of euphony. A discordant mixture of harsh and unpleasant sounds. Also known as dissonance. *Example: Clocks Clang.*

**DRAMATIC TERMS**

**Parody:** A ludicrous imitation, usually intended for comic effect but often for ridicule of both the style and content of another work. The humour depends on the reader’s familiarity with the original work. Often used in plays (Some of Shakespeare’s plays contain parody).

**Satire:** A literary work that exposes and ridicules human vices or folly. Usually intended as a moral criticism directed against the injustice of social wrongs. May be witty and funny or angry and bitter.

**Tragedy:** A drama in which the protagonist, a person of nobility, must make a moral decision that influences the outcome of the drama. The protagonist usually has a serious fault, the “tragic flaw,” which leads to his downfall and death.

**Dramatic Monologue:** A “poem” in which a single character, overheard by a silent listener, reveals a dramatic situation.

**Soliloquy:** The utterance of a character that is talking to himself/herself, unaware of any hearers that may be present. It allows insight into a character’s innermost feelings.

**Aside:** when only the audience hears a character’s words, not the characters on stage.

**Couplet:** A pair of lines that rhyme. Couplets may be a part of a longer poem.

**Dilemma:** A situation requiring a choice between equally undesirable alternatives.

**Catastrophe:** The final stage in the falling action of a tragedy which ends the drama.

**Comic Relief:**  A humorous event in a tragedy to provide relief from tension.

**Archaic Language:**Characteristics of language of the past.

**RHYTHM, RHYME, AND POETRY**

**Metre:** The pattern of stressed syllables occurring at regular intervals creating rhythm.

**Syllable:** The “beat” in a line of poetry.

**Blank Verse:** Unrhymed iambic pentameter.

**Iambic Pentameter:** 10 syllables in a line of poetry. Pentameter means 5 feet, Iambic means 2 syllables, one stressed, one unstressed (5 x 2 = 10 syllables). In iambic pentameter the stress is on the second syllable. Sonnets are written in rhymed iambic pentameter. Shakespearian drama is written in blank verse (see above).

**Foot/Feet:** A metrical unit (see iambic pentameter).

**Repetition:** The repeating of a word or phrase to add rhythm or to emphasize an idea.

**Rhyme:** The similarity of sound in words. (Words whose final vowels and consonants are the same). Rhyme is used to create a pleasing sound.

**Rhyme** **Scheme:** The pattern of a rhyme within a stanza or a poem. The rhyme scheme is usually shown by applying to each similar rhyme the same letter of the alphabet.

**Sonnet:** A lyric poem of fourteen lines, with rhymes arranged according to certain definite patterns (rhyme schemes). A sonnet usually expresses a single, complete thought, idea, or sentiment.

**PLOT TERMS**

**Plot:** The order or relationship of events in the drama. A Shakespearian play contains 5 acts. The plot action builds up to a climax, which is the turning point of the play, and then falls to a conclusion or resolution of the conflict. Act IV reveals the result or consequences of the decisions made in Act III. Act V leads towards a final resolution of the conflict.

**Denouement:**the final unraveling of the plot, the outcome… the untying of the knot, which involves an explanation of all secrets and misunderstandings

**Conflict:** Conflict is the heart of plot. It is the struggle between opposing characters or forces. Conflict is external or internal. The four main conflicts are: character versus character, self, society, and character versus nature/environment.

**Foreshadowing:** a hint or sign of forthcoming events.

**Character Types:**

**a) Protagonist:** the main character in a literary work.

**b) Antagonist:** the character or force that competes against the protagonist

**c) Stock (Stereotype):** a fictional character based on a common literary or social stereotype. Stock characters rely heavily on cultural types or names for their personality, manner of speech, and other characteristics. Stock characters are conventional, providing relationships and interactions that people will be familiar with and recognize immediately.

**d) Flat character:** has only one dimension to his/her personality

**e) Round character:** a well-developed character. He/she is complex/3 dimensional

**f) Static character:** does not undergo any significant changes. This characters opinions, beliefs, attitudes, and actions remain the same throughout.

**g) Dynamic character:** undergoes a permanent change resulting from the conflict.

**Character Foil:** A flat, static character whose role is simply to act as a contrast to another character.

**OTHER TERMS:**

**Pathos:** portrayal of an incident to arouse feelings of pity, tenderness or sadness.

**Juxtaposition**: Combining two unlikely elements close to each other, usually for contrast. The effect is the shock created by the combination.

**Contrast**: Writing that highlights differences.

**Cause and Effect:** noting a relationship between actions or events such that one or more are the result of the other or others.