## **Appendix H: Student Glossary of Terms**

The Student Glossary lists examinable terms for Key Stage – 9. Items with an asterisk at not intended to be covered in depth until Grade 9. This glossary is provided for clarity only, and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of terminology related to this curriculum.

A	
act	a major section of a play; acts are divided into varying numbers of shorter scenes
*allegory	a symbolic story having a second, deeper meaning beneath the readily apparent one
alliteration	the repetition of the beginning sounds in groups of words, usually at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable; e.g., descending dew drops; luscious lemons
allusion	a reference to a familiar literary or historical person or event, used to make an ideas more easily understood; allusions my be classified as: Classical – "The man was Atlas personified"; Biblical – "My friend acted like a Judas"; Historical – "He was a Napoleonic figure"; Literary – "He was a real Romeo"
*anachronism	is the poetic device which places a person, thing, or event in a time frame where it does not belong; e.g., The clock has stricken three. ( <i>Julius Ceasar</i> )
*analogy	a comparison between two things sharing some similar qualities, usually for the purpose of explanation or clarification; e.g., comparing a computer to a human brain
anaphora	the deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of several successive verses, clauses, or paragraphs
*antagonist	the major character in a narrative or drama that works against the hero or protagonist
*apostrophe	is a poetic device which uses words to address to someone or something absent or silent, as if it were present and alive, or capable to making a reply
argumentative essay	an essay that attempts to persuade the reader to the writer's point of view; the writer can be either serious or funny, but always tries to convince the reader of the validity of his or her opinion
*aside	in drama, a speech directed to the audience that supposedly is not audible to the other characters on the stage at the time
assonance	the close repetition of the same vowel sounds between different consonants; e.g., brave – vain; lone – show; feel – sleet

the overall emotional impression we get from the words, images, and setting of a text atmosphere

and the pace set by the story's plot., e.g., cheerful, anxious, foreboding

audience the people for whom a piece of literature is written

autobiography a personal account of one's own life, especially for publication

author the originator or creator of a piece of work, especially written

В

\*ballad a narrative poem or song that tells a popular story, often of physical courage or love.

balance the way shapes are arranged within a visual; when shapes are balanced, they create a

feeling of order or harmony

belief mental acceptance of a claim as truth; something believed

bias a slanted viewpoint that prevents a fair and open-minded assessment; can occur in a

piece of writing when the author leaves our information that is necessary to give an

accurate presentation of a person or subject

an account of the life and deeds of an individual, written by someone else biography

a web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and blog

often hyperlinks provided by the writer

book jacket the front covers of paperbacks and the dust jackets on hardcover books; usually

carefully designed to attract the reader's attention

brochure a booklet of printed informational matter, like a pamphlet, often for promotional

purposes

C

caption the words beneath a photograph that explain the subject and give background

information; help to shape the meaning of the photo, sometimes in misleading ways

a sketch or drawing, usually humorous, as in a newspaper or periodical, symbolizing, cartoon

satirizing, or caricaturing some action, subject, or person of interest

character is a person presented in a dramatic or narrative work; characters may be classified

> as: Static – characters who do not change throughout the work, and the reader's knowledge of the character does not grow; Dynamic - characters who undergo some kind of change because of the action in the plot; Flat – characters who embody one or two qualities, ideas, or traits that can be easily described in a brief summary;

Round – more complex characters who often display the inconsistencies and internal conflicts found in real people

characterization

the way an author creates characters within a story to make them seem real to the reader; includes the development of the character's appearance, background, feelings, and thoughts; direct characterization – when the author tells the reader directly about the character; indirect characterization – when the author shows the character in action and lets readers draw their own conclusions

\*character sketch

a brief description of a character, using whatever evidence is available to you, in order to show that character's attitudes, feelings, thoughts, and personality

\*chorus

a group of people who serve mainly as commentators on the characters and events

\*cliché

an idea or expression that has become tired from overuse, its clarity having worn off; e.g., the bottom line is...

coherence (transitions)

word phrases which show relationships between sentences or paragraphs. It helps to achieve unity and coherence in an essay

coherence (connectives)

anything which serves as a means of connecting one sentence to another or one paragraph to another; e.g., repetition, parallel structure, pronoun references, etc.

collage

a technique of composing a work of art by pasting on a single surface various materials not normally associated with one another, such as newspaper clippings, parts of photographs, parts of cards, etc.

\*colloquial language

language characteristic of everyday informal speech; e.g., You're getting on me nerves!

comparison

describes similarities and differences between two or more items, either feature by feature or subject by subject.

complex sentences

a sentence with one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses

composition

the act of combining parts or elements to form a whole as in writing, visual art, dance, music, etc. to create an intended effect or convey a message

compound sentence

a sentence with two or more main cluases linked by a coordinating conjuntion or a semicolon

conflict

a struggle between opposing forces; conflict may be described as: internal – a emotional struggle inside a person; external – a struggle against the environment/nature or society; interpersonal – a stuggle with another person; main – the central conflict that moves the plot forward; minor – secondary conflict that does not influence the plot a great deal

connotations

the associations a word or image evokes that go beyond the literal meaning; e.g., "home" connotes "comfort, love, security", etc.

contemporary realistic fiction

people stories, animal stories, sports stories, mysteries, survival stories, humorous stories, etc.

contrast | to examine two or more items by looking at only their differences

conventions customary practices, features, characteristics, or patterns of a text, often arising from the

medium

coordinating conjunctions

words that link two or more other words or group or words of equal importance

\*couplet two lines of verse with similar end-rhymes

**creative writing** the exercise of creating imaginative drama, fiction, or poetry

critical literacy includes author, author's view/beliefs, intended audience, purpose, topic and message

**critique/critiquing** criticizing a literary or other work through detailed evaluation and review

D

deconstruction | breaking a text down into its components to see what messages and assumptions it

carries

declarative sentence | makes a statement and ends with a period; most common type of sentence

denotation refers to the specific, exact, and concrete dictionary meaning of a word, independent of

any associated or secondary meanings; e.g., "home" denotes "a place where one lives"

description/descriptive

writing

the exercise of representing characters, scenes, ideas or actions to make the writing more vivid and appealing for the reader

dialect the way a language is spoken in a particular region or place

dialogue the actual words that characters speak; authors use dialogue skilfully in the short story to

portray character and to dramatize conflict

diction the author's choice of words, the vocabulary level of the story; e.g., slang, colloquial,

formal

diorama a life-like scene, often in miniature, reproduced in three dimensions by placing objects,

figures, etc. in front of a painted background

\*dominant impression

or image

the central thought or object that stands out in a work

drama includes improvisation, role-playing, storytelling, mime, Reader's Theatre, scripts,

interviews, dance, theatre games, etc.

dramatic irony | a technique that increases suspense by letting readers know more about the dramatic

situation than the characters know

drawing and painting

using coloured pencils, felt markers, pastels, brushes and paint, or a software drawing program to express ideas; includes elements such as line, colour, shape/form, and texture to give specific impressions or create certain moods

E

edit/editing reading written work to check for errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, usage and grammar; usually completed before publishing a written piece of work

elegy a type of lyric poem that expresses sadness for someone who had died; traditionally a solemn meditation on a serious subject

> the stress or focus on a part or a whole. In writing, emphasis can help specific elements stand out for the reader.

a long, narrative poem dealing with the actions of legendary men and women or the history of nations, often presented in a good ceremonious style.

a sudden grasp of reality is achieved in a quick flash or recognition in which something, usually simple and commonplace, is seen in a new light

an extended piece of writing in which an author explores a subject in detail; may be classified as: narrative - relates a story about an event or experience such as an auto biography; descriptive – describes a person, place, event, object or process such as a character sketch; expository – explains information about an event, process, issue or topic such as a magazine article about refining oil

usually has 3 main parts:

- an introduction introduce the subject (the 5W's and the basic background info); to indicate the story's main conflict; to catch the reader's attention
- a body presents events in a clear order; outlines the development of the conflict; develops relationships among the characters
- a conclusion provides a resolution and summarizes main points

a speech or essay written in praise of a person, usually soon after the subject's death.

a less offensive way of saying something negative; e.g., "pass away" instead of "die"

writing that is systematically explanatory, and communicates information; see essay

includes letters, notices, signs, memos, etc.

details, facts or statistics to support statements of opinion or belief

expresses strong feeling and ends with an exlamation mark

includes response journals, friendly letters, thank-you notes, etc.

\*emphasis

\*epic

\*epiphany

essay

essay structure

eulogy

euphemism

expository writing

everyday texts

evidence

exlamatory sentence

expressive or personal writing

F	
fantasy/science fiction	includes time warps, little people, spirits, strange/curious worlds, preposterous characters.
features of text	any physical or design elements of text that clarify or support meaning; include diagrams, headings, bold and italicized words, diagrams, drawings, graphics, labels, tables of contents, indices, and glossaries
fiction	genres of narration that many be based on events and characters that are not real
figurative language	language that uses figures of speech, such as simile, metaphor, personification, and alliteration; used extensively to create imagery
flashback	a technique for presenting something that happened earlier (often prior to when the reader begins the story) that helps explain something about the current situation.
fluency	smoothness, flow, phrasing, and ease of expression in reading, writing and speaking; includes comprehension
focal point	part of a visual that is the main area of interest
foreshadowing	a technique for providing clues about events that may happen later in the story.
form	smaller division within a genre; i.e., poetry is a genre; haiku, a type of poetry, is a form of the genre
*free verse	poems characterized by their nonconformity to established patterns of meter, rhyme, and stanza
G	
genre	a type or class of literary texts ( <i>e.g.</i> , poems, narratives, essays, <i>etc.</i> ) within which there are sub-categories of forms ( <i>e.g.</i> , haiku, short story, expository, <i>etc.</i> )
graphic novel	any writing that uses pictures and images in a sequential order to convey plot and message to the reader
group discussion	includes conversation, brainstorming, group sharing, interviewing
Н	
historical fiction	a mostly created plot set among actual events or a specific period of history
hyperbole	an exaggerated statement used not to deceive, but for humorous or dramatic effect; <i>e.g.</i> , "It rained cats and dogs."
hypertext	digital text which contains links to other texts

Ι

L

imagery language that creates pictures in a reader's mind to bring life to the experiences and

feelings described in a poem; words that appeal to the reader's senses and enables us to see (visual), hear (auditory), smell (olfactory), taste (gustatory), and touch (tactile) what

the writer is describing

imperative sentence makes a request or command and ends with a period; "you" is dropped from the

beginning of the sentence but is understood by the reader

inferring/inference | combining clues in the text with prior knowledge to draw conclusdions about ojects,

actions, locations, time, cause or effects, feelings, pastimes or occupations

information literacy includes evaluating information, bias, validity of sources

information texts | texts about process, people, events or reference material

interrogative sentence | asks a question and ends with a question mark

irony a particular tone created when the speaker intends a meaning that is opposite to the

words he or she says; includes: **Verbal Irony** – when what a character says and thinks he or she means is actually different from what the audience perceives is meant; **Dramatic Irony** – when the audience knows more about a character's situation than the character does; **Situational Irony** – when there is a difference between what is expected to happen and what actually does happen; **Structural Irony** – when a naïve or deluded hero (or unreliable narrator) views the world is very differently from the true circumstances

recognized by the author or reader

J

juxtapose/ to place close together or side by side, especially for comparison and contrast

justaposition

layout the positioning of articles and photographs in a news publication; also includes the use

of borders, colours, and artwork

listening to focus attention on what is being heard

literal meaning/ language that means exactly what it says

literary devices | techniques or words used to create a particular effect; include allusion, flashback,

foreshadowing, imagery, symbolism, metaphor, simile, sound devices, etc.

literary elements include character, plot, setting, point of view, style, conflict, voice, theme, etc. . used in

fiction, poetry, drama, etc.

M

logical fallacies | defects that weaken arguments, such as hasty generalizations and missing the point,

based on flawed reasoning

media texts any communication product, including radio and television, movies, billboards,

magazine and television advertisements, books, paintings, photographs, collages, posters,

comics, and web pages

media literacy evaluating media texts for comparison, message, intended audience, etc.

metaphor a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things, without using the

words like or as; e.g., "You are a dog."

mime acting without words using hand gestures, body movements and facial expressions to

represent a feeling or idea or to convey a story

monologue a long speech in a play or film spoken by one actor, especially when he or she is alone;

e.g., a soliloquy or an aside

mood the overall feeling (e.g., light and happy or dark and brooding) created by an author's

choice of words

**movement** a sense of energy in a visual, determined by the spaces between shapes and by the shapes

themselves

multimedia the combined use of several media

N

narrator the speaker who tells the story; may be a character who participates in the story or may

be the author of a story or poem; speaker and author are not always the same

narrative writing writing that tells a story or part of a story; includes characters, setting, conflict, suspense,

etc.

**non-fiction** any piece of writing about actual people, places, or events

note-making choosing what information needs to be recorded; selected by the student (*i.e.*, note

maker)

note-taking taking notes from a provided source; important information has been pre-selected

by a teacher, student or presenter; different types of notes include paraphrase, direct

quotation, summary note and idea note

O

onomatopoeia the sound of a word resemble its meaning, e.g., buzz, hiss, etc.

oral presentation includes booktalks, short oral report, persuasive talks, illustrated media

oral interpretation

includes coral reading, choral speaking, readers theatre, storytelling

organization

refers to the structure of text; includes comparison and contrast, deduction, development of a theme or the chronology of an event

\*oxymoron

a figure of speech in which contradictory words are placed together for the purpose of expressing deep feelings, or to emphasize a point; *e.g.*, cold fire, feather of lead, honourable villain, silent speech

P

\*parallelism/parallel structure the deliberate repetition of the same or a similar grammatical structure, often used for effect in emotional or dramatic passages; *e.g.*, I came, I saw, I conquered.

personification

a literary device in which human qualities or actions are attributed to non-human beings or objects

perspectives

interpretation of all relevant data in order to make an informed opinion

persuasive writing writing meant to convince an audience to think in a certain way or to take a particular action

photo essay

a series of photographs that tells a story or evokes an emotional response from the viewer; often accompanied by a written text (*e.g.*, simple captions, titles, artist's statment, essay, *etc.*)

pictorial, typographical, and organizational devices

includes text features such as headings, tables, graphs, bold print, etc.

plagerism

claiming or implying original authorship of someone else's written or creative work, either in whole or part, without adequate acknowledgement

plays

drama that includes silent plays, tableau/pantomime, stage plays, puppet plays, radio plays, etc.

plot

the author's arrangement of events that make up the action of a story; includes:

- Exposition background material about the characters, setting, and dramatic situation; introduces the essentials of the story
- Complication any obstacle or conflict that increases the tension of the story's conflict; also called the **rising action**
- Climax the moment when the action comes to its highest point of dramatic conflict
- Falling action follows the climax and leads to the resolution and a sharp decline in dramatic tension
- Resolution follows the falling action and pulls together all the loose threads of the story; also called the conclusion or denouement

podcast a digital recording of a broadcast, available on the Internet for downloading to a personal

computer or audio player

poetic device terms used to describe features of poetic writing (e.g., alliteration, simile, meter, etc.)

poetic or imaginative writing

includes poetry, stories, songs, monologues, and dialogue in a variety of forms, styles; may include character or plot development

poetry writing intended to elicit an emotional response from the reader without conventions of

prose; includes ballad, sonnet, limerick, eulogy, free verse, haiku, lyrics, narrative poems,

shape/concrete poems, syllable/word-count poems, formula poems, etc.

point of view the perspective the author establishes to tell the story; includes: First person (I) – the

narrator participates in the action of the story; Third person (he, she, Mary, Mr. Tucker, etc.) – the narrator does not participate in the action of the story; may be classified as: Omniscient – the narrator presents the thoughts of more than one of the characters; Limited – the narrator presents only his or her own thoughts which is only one side of

the story

a sign usually consisting of a combination of print and visuals; mainly designed to attract poster

and hold the attention of the audience; may convey a message to make people think

prejudice an opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason

print texts includes all print material (e.g., digital documents such as Email, documents, books,

newspapers, etc.)

the opening speech or dialogue of a play; usually gives the exposition necessary to follow prologue

the subsequent action; also refers to the introduction to any literary work

proofread read work to make edits

\*propaganda attempts to sway popular opinion and beliefs through distortions of the truth or outright

lies.

the ordinary form of spoken or written language that has no metrical rhythm; contrasts prose

> with poetic writing or verse; uses conventions such as sentences, captialization, paragraphs, titles, etc.; includes short story, novel, essay, newspaper article, letter,

Internet article, encyclopedia, etc.

\*protagonist the main character in a literary work

publish to make public; to produce or create for an audience

the humorous use of words that sound the same or nearly the same but differ in \*pun

meaning. Example: "to make dandelion biscuits, you need two cups of flower"

purpose reason for existence, the reason why something has been written or created; contributes

to tone, diction, style, selection of specific details, audience, attitude, etc.; includes to

define, report, persuade, compare, etc.

R

\*refrain a phrase, line, or lines repeated in a poem; often called the chorus in song lyrics

repetition the deliberate use of the same word, words, or events to create an effect

rephrasing to repeat phrase again in a same or different manner

representions/ representing visual constructions; includes collages, diagrams, posters, multimedia presentations

research process includes planning/pre-research questions or outline, gathering information, interacting

with information, organizing information or outlining, creating new information, sharing and presenting information, evaluation and assessment (usually with a rubric)

respond critically evaluating a piece of work and making value judgments about the work

revise/revision reviewing work to improve meaning; may include enhancing ideas by adding or deleting

details, **improving organization** by writing a better lead or ending, **clarifying the organization** by reordering the piece, **improving word choice** by choosing more precise nouns, **developing sentence fluency** by varying sentence lengths/beginnings, checking

for coherence and unity of ideas, etc.

rhyme the same sound occurring in different words

rhythm pattern of accented and unaccented, stressed and unstressed, syllables in written or

spoken language

role play assuming the role of a character met in a text or in an imagined situations; develops

problem-solving skills and imagination

**run-on sentence** a written sequence of two or more main clauses that are not separated by a period or

semicolon or joined by a conjunction

S

sarcasm harsh or bitter verbal irony in what one is saying

\*satire a blend of wit, irony, and humor used to reveal and criticize human characteristics

scan strategy used to search for a specific item or fact in a text

scene a subdivision of an act

sentence fluency rhythm and flow of the language used in a sentence; writing is not awkward

**sentence fragment** a phrase or clause written as a sentence but lacking an element (*e.g.*, a subject or verb)

that would enable it to function as a sentence

setting the environment or surroundings in which a story takes place; includes time, place, and

situation in which the characters are placed

significant social texts | can be oral or written; include speeches, advertisements, radio, and television broadcasts,

political documents, editorials, advertisements, etc.

simile a comparison between two unlike things using like or as; e.g., "My love is like a red, red

rose."

speaking the act of communicating orally

simple sentence has one main clause consisting of a subject and a predicate

skim reading quickly to get the general idea of the text

\*soliloquy the act of talking while or as if alone; often used as a device in drama to disclose a

character's innermost thoughts

stage directions instructions written into the script of a play, indicating stage actions, movements of

actors, placement of props, etc.

stanza a stanza in a poem is what a paragraph is to a piece of prose – stanzas are separated from

one another by the use of spaces within a poem

stereotype a fixed mental picture that one draws upon in making judgments instead of taking a

fresh, open-minded look each time; e.g., All teenagers are troublemakers.

storyboard sequence of images used to plan a film, video, television program, drama, story or

presentation

style the characteristic ways that an individual author uses language; includes word choice,

length and complexity of sentences, patterns of sound, and use of imagery and symbols.

summarizing to express in a shorter, more concise form

suspense | techniques used by the author to keep readers interested in the story and wondering

what will happen next

subordinating words that link a subordinate clause (less important) with the rest of a sentence conjunctions

symbolism something concrete, such as a person, object, image, word, or event that represents

something abstract, such as a feeling, emotion, idea or concept; may be very recognizable and common to many people (e.g., religious symbols, national flags, logos, etc.); often

used to reinforce meaning

symbolic codes

images that communicate meaning

T

tableaux

an interlude during a dramatic scene when all the performers on stage freeze in position and then resume action as before; can also mean a very vivid or graphic description

target audience

an audience made up of the same kind of people (*e.g.*, children between the ages of eight and twelve, doctors, people who live in northern climates, *etc.*)

technological texts

include computer software, computer networks, databases, CDROMs, etc.

text

any piece of spoken, written, or visual communication (*e.g.*, a particular speech, essay, poem, story, poster, play, film); may combine oral, written, and/or visual components; literary texts are both fiction and non-fiction (*e.g.*, prose, drama, poetry, *etc.*), may be oral (*e.g.*, epic, legend, myth, ballad, folk tale, *etc.*); include:

- short texts short stories, articles, excerpts from longer text, and poetry
- long texts novels, full-length plays and films
- visual texts charts, graphs, diagrams, photos, illustrations, webs, maps, etc.
- electronic text digital documents, web pages, electronic communication, etc.
- media texts advertisements, television, film, radio, etc.
- reference texts atlases, dictionaries, thesauri, and multimedia encyclopedias

texture

the quality or feel of an object's surface, such as roughness or smoothness; effective use of lines and dots in visual images can create textures which can be "felt" with the eyes

theme

the story's main idea or message that the author intends to communicate by telling the story; often universal truths that are suggested by the specifics of the story

\*thesis

is the central argument of an essay; a complete sentence (although sometimes it may require more than one sentence) that establishes the topic of the essay in clear, unambiguous language

\*title

is the name of a selection

tone

the author's attitude towards the subject that he/she is writing about such as anger or approval, pride or piety, joy or pain

\*topic sentence

a sentence stating the main idea of a paragraph

traditional literature

includes myths, legends, folktales, etc.

tragedy

a dramatic composition, dealing with a serious theme, typically that of a great person of affluence destined, through a flaw of character or conflict with some overpowering force, as fate or society, to downfall or destruction

tragic flaw

the character flaw or defect that causes the downfall of the protagonist in a tragedy; also known as hamartia

tragic hero

the literary character that has the tragic flaw, combined with many other conflicts, and makes the often fatal error in judgment that leads to tragedy

traits of writing

includes ideas, voice, sentence structure/fluency, organization, word choice and conventions

transactional or informational writing

includes project reports, reviews, letters, directions

U

understatement

a figure of speech in which the speaker says less than what he or she actually feels; the opposite of exaggeration

unity

a quality of oneness, in which the parts hang together; each part of a work is interdependent and no part is irrevelant

V

verbal irony

the use of figures of speech such as hyperbole and understatement to create an ironic effect

verbal and nonverbal language features includes summaries, eye contact, body language, repetition, volume, etc.

visuals

information that is communicated through still or moving images in a variety of forms such as paintings, photographs, cartoons, television, movies, stage plays, illustrations, drawings, videos, advertisements, *etc.*; features of visuals include:

- **composition** the arrangement of visual elements within a picture; way in which the parts of an artistic work are brought together into a visually satisfying whole
- scale the relative size of objects within visual; large objects attract the viewer's attention first
- contrast refers to dark and light or other differences used to create strong feelings in a visual; contrasting textures may be rough and smooth colour hue or tint (name of the colour, such as blue or red), intensity (purity and strength of a colour), and value (the lightness or darkness of a colour); used represent the way things really look and also to create feelings
- **balance** the way shapes are arranged; balanced shapes create a feeling of order or harmony; unbalanced shapes create tension
- message the general idea or insight about a message that an artist wishes to express
- focal part of a photograph, drawing or painting that is the main area of interest
- **proportion or symmetry** balance in which the parts are visually equal; also called formal balance

visual literacy

includes examining texts for aesthetic, emotive, affective qualities, elements of design and colour

voice | is the personality of the speaker or creator that is revealed in a work through such

elements as style, tone, diction, etc.

W

webcast a digital video recording available only the Internet

webinar a digital seminar available only on the Internet; may allow for two-way interaction

between presenters and viewers

web page a page of information at a website; may include text, graphics, and links to other web

pages

website a collective term for all of the web pages at a particular site on the Internet; can cover

one topic or a variety of topics

word choice see diction

writing to commit thoughts to written or printed text

zine a small-scale magazine usually written for a limited audience; often appears in print or

digital formats