

## Middle School Language Arts/Reading/English Vocabulary

adjective – a word that describes a noun

adverb – a word that describes a verb

adjective clause – a subordinate clause that modifies or describes a noun or pronoun

adjective phrase – a prepositional phrase or participial phrase that modifies or describes a noun or pronoun

adverb clause- a subordinate clause that often modifies the verb telling how, when, where, why, or under what conditions the action occurs

adverb phrase – a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb

alliteration - repetition of a sound in a word

almanac – an annual resource book that can be used to find statistics about natural occurring things

analogy- a point-by-point comparison between two apparently dissimilar things

anecdote – a brief account of an interesting event

antagonist – a force or character working against the protagonist (hero or main character)

antonym -a word that means the opposite of another word

apostrophe – a punctuation mark used in possessive nouns and contractions

appositive – a noun placed next to another noun to identify or add information about it

assonance – repetition of a vowel sound at the beginning of a word

author's purpose – authors write to inform or teach, entertain or persuade

autobiography- story of a person's life written by that person

base word – a complete word that can stand alone or that can be used with prefixes, suffixes or another base word to form new words (i.e., *un* + *faith* + *ful*, skate + board)

biography- the true story of a person's life written by another person.

cause and effect-the event that happens first is the cause and the one that follows as a result of that cause is the effect

character foil – a character that provides a striking contrast to a main character

character trait – adjectives that tell about a character’s personality

characterization – all the techniques an author uses to present a character:

- the character’s words and actions
- the character’s thoughts
- the character’s appearance
- showing what others think about the character

climax – the point of the greatest interest of a story

coherent- logically connected (i.e., in ISAT writing, when each paragraph in a written piece appears to be connected and logically heading towards a conclusion)

cohesive- sticking together (i.e., in ISAT writing, within a paragraph when ideas in sentences flow from one sentence to the next and the transitional words help hold the common idea together)

comma – a punctuation mark that is used to separate items or set them off from the rest of the sentence

comparative adjective – compares one person or thing with another

compare – point out what things have in common

complex sentence – a sentence that has one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses

compound sentence – a sentence that contains two or more main clauses joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or a semicolon

conclusion: text and writing – the last paragraph which often repeats key ideas

conflict: a struggle between opposing forces

internal: man vs. self

external: struggle between a character and an outside force such as:

- man vs. man
- man vs. society
- man vs. fate
- man vs. nature

conjunction – a word that joins words or word groups

connotation - the idea or feeling associated with a word

consonance – repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of a word

context clue – a hint in the text about the meaning of a word

contrast – point out the differences between things

conventions - grammar and punctuation

declarative sentence – a sentence used to make a statement that ends with a period

dialogue – words that characters speak aloud

direct quote – the speaker’s exact words as set off by “quotation marks”

drama – a form of literature meant to be performed in front of an audience; a play

elaboration – expansion on a topic to provide additional details

enunciation - act of speaking clearly and concisely

essay – nonfiction writing, usually from the author’s personal point of view

etymology- the origin and development of a word as shown by its earliest use and changes in form and meaning

exaggeration - an extreme overstatement of an idea often used for emphasis or humor

exclamatory sentence – a sentence that expresses strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point

explicit/implicit - stated directly/suggested but not stated directly

exposition – in fiction, the early part of the story that sets the tone, establishes the setting, introduces the characters, provides background information

expository: text/writing - writing that gives the reader information or explains a topic

fable – a brief tale that teaches a lesson about human nature, often featuring animals

fact vs. opinion - a fact can be proven and an opinion cannot be proven and/or is a personal belief

fairy tale - a fanciful tale usually with some magic involved

fiction/nonfiction – fiction is a story that is not true while nonfiction is based on facts

figurative language - words or expressions that are not literally true that are used by writers to create original descriptions

figure of speech – an expression used to convey meaning by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a familiar meaning to the reader/listener (i.e., simile or metaphor)

flashback – a part of the story that goes back to the past to give the reader some information from that time

folk tale – a simple story that has been passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth used to entertain, often including talking animals or superhuman beings

footnote – a note placed at the bottom of a page in a book or document that cites a reference or that explains something in the text

foreshadowing – a hint about an event that will occur later in the story

functional directions – information to tell the reader how to do something from everyday life

generalization – a statement about a whole group that summarizes information that is usually true about that group

genre – a type or category of literature normally divided into four groups: fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry

graphic – any type of visual aid that is used to present information quickly and clearly

haiku – Japanese poetry whose form is 3 lines with a syllabic pattern of 5,7,5

historical fiction – fiction that is set in the past and includes actual historical events with fictional elements

homonym – a word that sounds like or is spelled like another word but which has a different meaning

hyperbole – the author's use of exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis

idiom – an expression that has a meaning different from the meaning of the individual words (i.e., it is raining cats and dogs)

imagery – the use of words and phrases that appeal to the reader's senses

imperative sentence – a sentence that is a request or command and that ends with a period, or sometimes an exclamation mark

inference – a logical guess based on evidence from the text

interjection – a word or group of words that expresses emotion

interpretation – an explanation or restatement of the meaning of a written work

interrogative sentence – a sentence that asks a question and that ends with a question mark

irony – the contrast between what is expected and what actually happens

- verbal irony – the contrast between what is said and what is meant
- situational irony – refers to a happening that is the opposite of what is expected
- dramatic irony – the reader knows more than the characters know

irregular verb - a verb whose past and past participle are formed in a way other than by adding *-d* or *-ed*

italics – in text, letters or words that are slanted to the right to emphasize them (i.e., ... *abcdef*)

limerick- a short humorous 5 line poem with a rhyme scheme of AABBA

literary elements - structural parts that are specific to types of writing such as the plot, characters, setting, theme, tone and point of view that are structural parts of a narrative story

main idea/ supporting details – the writer’s principal message and the information that supports it

memoir - a type of autobiography that may not cover the writer’s entire life but highlights a part of his/her life

metaphor – in writing, a comparison of two things that have some quality in common but the words *like* or *as* are not used

meter – the pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in poetry

mood – a feeling that a story conveys to the reader

moral - a lesson a fable teaches

multiple meaning word - a word that has more than one meaning

multi-step instructions – directions that have few to several steps

myth - a fictitious story that attempts to explain a belief, practice, or natural occurrence, often dealing with ancestors, heroes, or supernatural beings

narrative text - a written account of events that tells a story

outcome – the conclusion of action that ends a story

onomatopoeia – the use of words whose sound suggests their meaning (i.e., hiss, bang, thud)

paradox – a true statement that seems to contradict itself

paraphrase – a restatement of text in your own words

participle – a verb form usually ending in *-ing* or *-ed* used with an auxiliary verb to indicate certain tenses and that can also function as an adjective

personification – giving human qualities to an animal or a nonliving thing

persuasive writing/ text – writing meant to elicit agreement/ cooperation, or to be convincing

plot – the series of events in a story

point of view – in writing, the angle or view the author chooses to emphasize a point

- first person using the pronouns *I, me* or *we* to show a personal involvement with the story
- second person using the pronouns *you* or *yours* to tell the story in a less personal way as an observer
- third person using the pronouns of *he, she, it* or *they* to tell the story in a less personal way as an observer

possessive noun – a noun that shows ownership signaled by an apostrophe and an *s* if singular, or an *s* and an apostrophe if plural

prediction - an educated guess about what might happen in the future that is based on actual evidence and/or prior knowledge

prefix – a word part added at the beginning of a word that changes the meaning of the word

preposition – a word that shows a relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in a sentence

primary source – firsthand information account of an event (i.e., diary, journal letter, speech, photograph) used when writing research papers

prior knowledge - the information a reader already knows before reading a story

pronoun – a word that takes the place of one or more nouns

propaganda – a type of writing that uses misleading information to win people over to a point or idea

protagonist – central character or hero in a narrative or drama, usually the one with whom the audience tends to identify (i.e., Anne Frank)

reciprocal learning – a procedure in which the students take the role of the teacher through the use of 4 strategies

- summarize: tell the important things about the text
- clarify: figure out words, ideas or meaning
- questioning: ask questions about the text as you read
- prediction: make guesses that can be supported about what will happen in the story/text

rephrasing – restating an idea using your own words or terms

resolution – the conclusion of a story with the conflict solved

rhyme – a repetition of sounds at the end of words

rhythm –the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line

rising action/ falling action - the events leading up to the climax and the events after the climax

root word – the part of a word that provides the basic meaning but cannot stand alone (i.e., from Greek the root word *hydr* meaning water, as in hydrant or dehydrated)

run on sentence – two or more sentences written incorrectly as one sentence

satire – a style of writing in which ideas are made fun of or ridiculed

secondary source – information compiled from or based on another source

sensory detail – words and phrases that help readers use their five senses to know what the author is describing

sentence fragment – a group of words that does not express a complete thought and is missing a/some vital part/parts

sequence – the order of events

setting – the time, place, and sometimes the customs of a society as they relate to a story or poem

simile – a comparison of two things that have something in common using the words *like* and *as*

simple sentence – a sentence that has one independent clause and no dependent (subordinate) clause (i.e., *The stone tool was ancient.*)

slang – informal language consisting of made-up words and figures of speech used to add vividness, humor, irreverence, or other effect

stanza – a grouping of two or more lines in poetry (like a paragraph)

stereotype – standardized conception about someone or something

subjective view - point of view based on personal experiences or feeling

subject verb agreement- the subject and verb correspond with one another and must agree in number (i.e., if the subject is singular, the verb must be singular - *The musicians play* without sheet music.); in a verb phrase, the first helping verb must agree with the subject (i.e., *His music is* becoming legendary.)

subtle (implied) metaphor – a comparison where the terms being compared are not specifically explained

suffix – a word part added to the end of a word that changes the meaning of the word

summarize – telling the main ideas of a piece of writing in a person's own words while omitting unimportant ideas

synonym – a word having the same meaning or almost the same meaning as that of another word

target audience - the people the author is writing for or appealing to

textual evidence - proof that is actually in the print

text features - text organizers and characteristics such as titles, graphics, headers, captions, italics, page format that may be particular to specific text types

text structure – in nonfiction, the organization or format of text that helps the reader see how the ideas are related

- main idea and supporting details
- chronological or spatial order
- comparison and contrast
- cause and effect
- proposition and support

theme – the message about life or human nature that is conveyed by the literary work

tone – the writer’s attitude toward his subject

tragedy – a dramatic work that presents the downfall of a dignified character or characters who are involved in historically or socially significant events; through cause and effect the events lead to a disastrous conclusion

(6) Traits of Good Writing - a system devised to improve writing by examining or attending to 6 distinctive features of good writing

- ideas and content – focused, well developed writing enhanced by details
- organization – (following a strong lead or hook) ideas arranged in a logical order with details added to build toward a strong conclusion
- voice - author’s unique style or manner of expression revealing much about their personality
- word choice – precise, powerful, interesting words chosen to impact writing
- sentence fluency – smooth flowing sentences of different lengths
- conventions – punctuation, grammar, and spelling

transition – a connecting word or phrase that clarifies relationships between details, sentences, or paragraphs

urban legend – a modern story told in many versions around the world