

Lesson 16

Language and Literature

All the words in this lesson pertain to language and literature.

allegory N. a symbolic story that parallels and illustrates a common human situation or condition (This *allegory* has characters named Truth, Patience, and Humility.)

alliteration N. the repetition of an initial consonant sound in neighboring words (Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Bells" uses *alliteration*.)

anthology N. a collection of works of literature (This *anthology* is devoted entirely to literature by women writers.)

argot N. a specialized and often secret vocabulary of a particular group (Parents often do not comprehend the *argot* of their teenaged offspring.)

articulate ADJ. skillful in expressing oneself (The main character in this novel is an *articulate* young woman.)

assonance N. the repetition of vowels without repetition of consonants, used as an alternative to rhyme in verse (Using *assonance* in place of end rhyme is characteristic of the poetry of Emily Dickinson.)

circumlocutory ADJ. using an unnecessarily large number of words to express a thought (Many people find the prose style of the Victorians to be *circumlocutory*.)

denouement N. the final outcome or resolution of a literary work (In the *denouement* of *Hamlet*, Horatio expresses a farewell to the "sweet prince.")

excerpt N. a passage taken from a larger work (We read only an *excerpt* from Robert Browning's book-length poem *The Ring and the Book*.)

hyperbole N. an exaggeration not meant to be taken literally (The tall tales of Pecos Bill and Paul Bunyan rely almost entirely upon *hyperbole*.)

literary ADJ. relating to literature or books (*Literary* study is vital to a well-rounded education.)

metaphor N. a figure of speech that applies a term ordinarily used for one object to name or describe another object (To say "Friends are a treasure" is to use a *metaphor*.)

nuance N. a subtle or delicate shade of meaning (This passage takes on a different *nuance* if you consider that the writer is blind.)

paraphrase N. a restatement of a text, giving the meaning in another form (Your assignment is to write a *paraphrase* of the Gettysburg Address.)

platitude N. a banal or trite remark offered for its wisdom (*Gone with the Wind* ends with the *platitude* "Tomorrow is another day.")

rhetoric N. the art of speaking or writing effectively (The study of *rhetoric* includes learning composition and public speaking.)

satire N. a work of literature which combines sarcasm and humor to ridicule human vices or follies (Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* is a *satire* on male/female relationships.)

simile N. an expression that uses "like" or "as" to compare one thing with another, dissimilar thing ("My love is like a red, red rose" is an example of a *simile*.)

tautology N. a needless repetition of an idea, statement, or word ("He wrote an autobiography of his life" is an example of *tautology*.)

verbiage N. using more words than needed (An editor will revise a text to eliminate *verbiage*.)