

AP English Literature Exam Review

Literary Terms

allegory
alliteration
allusion
analogy
anaphora
anecdote
antagonist
antecedent
antithesis
aphorism
apostrophe
appositive
archetype
aside
assonance
asyndeton
auditory imagery
ballad
black humor
blank verse
cacophony
caricature
catharsis
characterization
chiasmus
Classicism
climax
colloquialism
comedy
conceit
connotation
denotation
denouement
deus ex machina
diction
didactic
direct object
double entendre
dramatic irony
dramatic
monologue
elegy
enjambment

epiphany
epistolary novel
ethos
euphemism
euphony
exposition
Expressionism
falling action
farce
figurative
language
first-person
narrator
flashback
foil
foreshadowing
frame narrative
genre
Gothic novel
gustatory imagery
heroic couplet
hyperbole
iambic pentameter
imagery
imperative
Impressionism
indirect object
internal rhyme
invective
inversion
invocation
irony
juxtaposition
kinesthetic
imagery
limited omniscient
narrator
litotes
logos
lyric
magical realism
metaphor
meter
metonymy

motif
narrative
Naturalism
non sequitur
objective narrator
ode
olfactory imagery
omniscient
narrator
onomatopoeia
organic imagery
oxymoron
paradox
parallelism
parody
pastoral
pathos
pedantic
personification
picaresque novel
polysyndeton
predicate
nominative
protagonist
pun
Realism
rhetoric
rhythm
Romanticism
rising action
sarcasm
satire
sestina
simile
solecism
sonnet
stream-of-
consciousness
Surrealism
syllogism
syllepsis
symbol
synecdoche
syntax

tactile imagery
tautology
theme
tone
tragedy
understatement
verisimilitude
villanelle
volta

Vocabulary

abhorrent
acerbic
acrimonious
acquiescing
altruistic
angst-ridden
apathetic
ardent
audacious
austere
averse
benign
bristle
buoyant
callous
capricious
caustic
chagrined
choleric
circumspect
coddled
complacent
confrontation
consternation

cowering
credulous
deferent
defiant
deluded
derisive
despondent
deterministic
didactic
disdainful
disquieted
dynamic
embittered
empathic
enamored
enervated
exasperated
exultant
fatuus
fawning
fervent
funereal
futile
hackneyed
halcyon
haughty
idiosyncratic
idolatrous
imperious
inane
indolent
indomitable
inept
insipid
insular
intrepid
irascible
ireful
jaded
lugubrious
maudlin
menacing
mendacious
meticulous

mirthful
misogynistic
morose
narcissistic
obsequious
patronizing
pedantic
petulant
piqued
placid
Platonic
pompous
Pollyannaish
portentous
pragmatic
provincial
rancorous
rapturous
repugnant
rueful
sagacious
sanguine
sardonic
secular
self-effacing
serene
subservient
solemn
stern
stoical
stolid
trepid
upbraiding
vapid
vehement
venerated
vindictive
vivacious
volcanic
whimsical
woeful
wrathful
wry
zealous