1. figurative language: used to describe and imply ideas indirectly; not literally true, but express a truth beyond a literal level

2. author’s purpose: the reason an author decides to write about a specific topic. PIE: to Persuade, Inform, or Entertain. Other purposes could be to criticize or to instruct.

3. author’s point of view: the angle of considering things, which shows the reader the opinion or feelings of the author. In literature, point of view is the mode of narration that an author employs to let the readers “hear” and “see” what takes place in a story, poem, [essay](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fliterarydevices.net%2Fessay%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHaGsutE4i-z4bkyWhZJuxHoSHuhA), etc. It is a reflection of the author’s opinion may be biased.

4. 1st person point of view: narrator who is a character in the story; uses the pronoun“I.”

5. 3rd person limited point of view: narrator who is an outsider to the story who reports events of the story to the reader; uses the pronouns *he* or *she*

6. 3rd person omniscient point of view: an all-knowing point of view; narrator is outside the story and comments on the action; reveals details that characters may not know about

7. bias (noun): an instance of prejudice

biased (*adjective*): a person or opinion believed that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others, which usually results in treating some people unfairly

8. writer’s/author’s style: choices that a writer makes about words and sentences—long or short, formal or informal, common or poetic; helps reveal the writer’s purpose and attitude/tone

9. main idea: the most important or central thought of a paragraph or larger section of text, which tells the reader what the text is about

10. theme *or* central idea: the main idea or concept of the story, which is usually an overall lesson or moral the reader should learn from the story

11. cause and effect: *Effect* is defined as *what happened*. *Cause* is defined as *why something happened*. Clue words that signal causal relationships include: *such as, because, so, consequently, therefore, thus, and since.* To find an effect, readers ask, “What happened?” To find cause, readers ask “Why did this happen?”

12. author’s intended audience: the type of people whom the author thinks will be reading what she or he writes (could be based on age, gender, level of intelligence, interests, etc.)

13. hyperbole: use of extreme exaggeration to emphasize a point; often used for a humorous effect

14. symbolism: when an object, person, place, or experience represents something else

15. irony: contrast between appearance and reality; often used to heighten the drama of unfolding events

16. pun: a play on words for humorous effect

17. plot: the sequence of events in the passage

18. setting: the time and place of the passage

19. tone: the writer’s attitude towards the passage; how the writer “comes across” Examples: formal, informal, humorous, analytical, serious, sarcastic, bittersweet, matter-of-fact, objective, urgent

20. mood: emotional quality or atmosphere; how the passage should make the reader feel

21. dialogue: the exact words spoken between characters

22. Dialect: The way in which a person speaks based on their region in which they live.

23. diction: the distinctive tone of an author’s writings. Diction is not just a writer's choice of words; it can include the mood, attitude, dialect and style of writing. It is often described as informal versus formal language; technical language versus slang; any arrangement of words used for a special effect

24. conflict (internal *versus* external): a struggle between two opposing forces; internal conflict involves making a decision; external conflict is man vs. man or man vs. any opposing force

25. anecdote: a short account of an interesting or amusing incident, often intended to illustrate or support some point; often used at the beginning of a passage to draw the reader in (Sample test questions: How does the anecdote establish the author’s point of view? How does the use of the anecdote advance the author’s purpose?)

26. allusion (*noun)*; allude (*verb*): a reference to something else such as another piece of literature, art, history, or another character, place, or situation

27. imply: to express something in an indirect way; to suggest something without saying or showing it plainly

28. infer (*verb*): to form an opinion from evidence; to reach a conclusion based on known facts inference (noun): the act or process of reaching a conclusion about something from known facts or evidence (Note: When the author *implies* something, the reader must make an *inference*.)

29. explicit meaning: a very clear and complete meaning that leaves no doubt about the meaning

30. dual meaning: having two meanings; this may also be referred to as “duality.” (If the two meanings are the same, *parallelism* is used; if they are opposite, *antithesis* is used.)

31. objective: based on facts rather than feelings or opinions; not influenced by feelings.

32.claim: an assertion of something as a fact

counterclaim: a claim set up in opposition to another (e.g., a defendant in a civil action against a

33. connotation / connotative meaning of a word *versus* literal meaning of a word: feelings associated with a word or concept (i.e. pig = sloppy) *versus* the word’s dictionary definition (denotation)

34. flashback: when a character pauses to remember something that happened prior to the current action; compares present to past and provides background information (Sample test question: How does flashback in the poem create \_\_\_\_\_\_?)

35. foreshadowing: clues that prepare the reader for events that are going to happen later; can create suspense.

36. mystery:a piece of fiction dealing with the solution of a [mysterious](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.merriam-webster.com%2Fdictionary%2Fmysterious&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHUam1lsnj_QqwHwi-wpwFZAbq4ug) crime

37. cultural experience: the experience of learning about or relating to a particular group of people and their habits, beliefs, traditions

38. analysis: an examination of a whole to discover its elements and their relations; close observations

39. credibility: the quality of being believable or worthy of trust; credible sources often have been recognized for their quality and have no hidden agenda; primary sources, facts, and statistics are best for defending claims

40. effective evidence to support an argument (i.e. use of a *credible source*, such as a primary source, proven facts, statistics): vital to support a claim; without it, a claim lacks credibility

41. exemplify: to be a very good example of something; to show something very clearly

42. illustrate: to give examples in order to make something easier to understand

43. realistic story: a story that could actually happen

44. historical fiction: a story that did not actually happen but represents an actual time period in history

45. fiction: not real; did not actually happen

46. protagonist: the main character, usually has good characteristics

47. antagonist: the character or force that opposes the protagonist, usually tries to bring the protagonist down.

48. paradox: a seemingly contradictory phrase that may suggest the truth about something (e.g., “Less is more.”)

49. rhetorical question: a [question](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FQuestion&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFqGBKo7_0NEKGV3cZNy1rGhpImjw) that is asked in order to make a point. The question is not posed to elicit an answer, but rather to encourage the listener to consider a message or viewpoint. (If a rhetorical question is used on the NCFE, there will most likely be a question about *why* it was used.)

50. rhetoric: the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech, literary devices, and rhetorical devices; a tool that empowers writers to convince their readers and listeners about their [point of view](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fliterarydevices.net%2Fpoint-of-view%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNH6wttF6lxE6Seyn14qAaavfLHB9w).

51. An author may advance his or her purpose (see #2) or his or her point of view (see #3) in various ways; some ways authors advance his purpose or point of view: (1) the way in which the author arranges ideas, sections, or paragraphs (chronologically, spatially, order of importance), (2) use of a particular diction/voice (for example, may use a voice that implies a sense of urgency), (3) word choice, use of repetition, or choice of sentence structure (use of fragments, run-ons, imperative, declarative, or exclamatory sentences), or (4) use of dialogue or quotations.

52. analogy: a [comparison](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fliterarydevices.net%2Fcomparison%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEK0n_UWK9guKTL-MhSc9hbxb_WAg) in which an idea or a thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it. It aims at explaining that idea or thing by comparing it to something that is familiar.

Metaphors and similes are tools used to draw an analogy. Therefore, analogy is more extensive and elaborate than either a [simile](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fliterarydevices.net%2Fsimile%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGzJWNi89eIvPgLSZQYLabAifIzBw) or a [metaphor](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fliterarydevices.net%2Fmetaphor%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGrr3KRawhqxtjkK-hSBTNFEjhKkg).

53. tension: An element in a novel that evokes emotions such as worry, anxiety, fear and stress on the part of both the reader and the characters in a novel; it results from conflict. Can you think of a time where you have felt tense or nervous? What caused this tension? (You versus whatever made you feel tense or nervous is tension.)

Poetic Devices:

54. simile: comparison using *like*, *than*, or *as*; not meant to be taken literally

55. metaphor: a direct comparison between two things; not meant to be taken literally (also see *symbolism*, word #14).

56. alliteration: repetition of words that begin with the same sound near one another (*Sally sells seashells*; *wet and wild;* *a babbling brook*).

57. repetition: repeating words, phrases, or concepts; typical reason for use of repetition: to make the idea clearer or to stress a point (This word may also be used for questions regarding reading passages other than poetry. *Repetition is often used as a rhetorical device to stress a point.* Sample test question: What impact does repetition of the word \_\_\_\_\_ have on the tone?)

58. assonance: the repetition of vowel sounds (*fingers knitted swiftly*)

59. consonance: repetition of consonant sounds either within words or at the ends of words

60. onomatopoeia: sounds words (*snap, pop, bam*)

61. couplet: a pair of lines that rhyme

62. rhyme scheme: a pattern of end rhymes in a poem; it is noted by assigning a letter of the alphabet, beginning with *a*, to the end of each line. Lines that rhyme are given the same letter. The reader is to analyze the pattern of the letters, which shows the poem’s rhyme scheme.

63. stanza: a group of two or more lines that form a unit in a poem (comparable to a paragraph in an essay or story); how the poem is divided

64. refrain: one or more lines repeated in every stanza of a poem; used for emphasis or unity of the poem; reinforces meaning and creates an appealing rhythm

65. personification: giving human characteristics to anything not human

66. free verse: poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter

67. meter: stressed and unstressed syllabic pattern in a poem. Stressed syllables tend to be longer and unstressed shorter. In other words, meter is a poetic device that serves as a linguistic sound pattern for the verses, as it gives poetry a rhythmical and melodious sound (a “sing-song” effect that can be soothing)