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Literary Terms

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Literary terms refer to the technique, style, and formatting used by writers and speakers to masterfully emphasize, embellish, or strengthen their compositions. Literary terms can refer to playful techniques employed by comedians to make us laugh or witty tricks wordsmiths use to coin new words or phrases.

Allegory

An allegory is a narrative story that conveys a complex, abstract, or difficult message. It achieves this through storytelling. Rather than having to explain the pitfalls of arrogance and the virtues of persistence, a writer can instead tell a tale about a talking tortoise and a haughty hare.

In allegory prose or verse in which the objects, events or people are presented symbolically, so that the story conveys a meaning other than and deeper than the actual incident or characters described. Often, the form is used to teach a moral lesson.

Allegory in literary means is other reading. It is a way of interpreting a narrative or a text to extract a more general, or a less literal meaning from it. Allegory in fiction can be on abstract themes, political and historical themes in the form of dream visions, parables, fables and the like. Bunyan's the pilgrim's progress is a moral allegory on men's salvation in the form of prose narration. It depicts the journey of humanity to the divine and the pilgrim who feels the city of destruction represents all men. Hence it is a literary device by which people objects or events in prose or verse are presented symbolically giving a meaning other than the one actually describe "As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a done, and I lead me down in that place to sleep. And as I slept I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and be held I saw a man clothes with Rex, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hands, and a great burden upon his back. I looked and saw him upon the book and read their in and as he read, he wept, and trembled, and not being able longer to content, he break out with her lemon table cry, saying, what should I do? (From the pilgrims progress). In the Middle Ages allegory was associated with the interpretation of the Biblical Old Testament in relation to the New Testament. Allegory is often used to convey a moral lesson. The main technique used is personification by which abstract qualities are presented in human form. To this genere belong allegorical lyric poetry, drama and allegorical narrative. The allegorical sensibility preavild in the Christian literature of the Middle Ages in morality place and dream vision that is divina comedia, medieval morality play everyman, Langlands piers floor man, Spencers The Fairy Queen Allegory is used in 20th century "explanation drama and Theatre of the absurd Novelists like George Orwell in his animal form (194 makes use of a beast fable to present a political and social in an allegorical manner.

Ballad

A popular narrative song passed down orally. In the English tradition, it usually follows a form of rhymed (abcb) quatrains alternating four-stress and three-stress lines. A popular artificial French verse form. The ballad should not be confused with the ballad, which is usually folk poetry. The ballad is essentially more sophisticated.

Blank verse

“Blank verse” is a literary term that refers to poetry written in unrhymed but metered lines, almost always iambic pentameter.

Comedy

Comedy is a broad genre of literature in which the goal is to make an reader laugh. It exists in every culture on earth (though the specifics of comedy can be very different from one culture to another), and has always been an extremely popular genre of storytelling.

Though his humor is often lost on modern readers, Shakespeare was a master comedian in his time. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for example, is a classic Shakespearean comedy and a good example of farce as well. The play is driven by the pranks of Puck, a mischievous jester who uses magic to make characters fall in love with each other for comic effect. The play, like nearly all Shakespearean comedies, ends with a big wedding.

Dissociation of sensibility

Dissociation of sensibility is a literary term first used by T. S. Eliot in his essay “The Metaphysical Poets”. It refers to the way in which intellectual thought was separated from the experience of feeling in seventeenth century poetry.

Dramatic monologue

Dramatic monologue is a type of poetry written in the form of a speech of an individual character. M.H. Abrams notes the following three features of the dramatic monologue as it applies to poetry: The single person, who is patently not the poet, utters the speech that makes up the whole of the poem, in a specific situation at a critical moment. This person addresses and interacts with one or more other people; but we know of the auditors' presence, and what they say and do, only from clues in the discourse of the single speaker.

The main principle controlling the poet's choice and formulation of what the lyric speaker says is to reveal to the reader, in a way that enhances its interest, the speaker's temperament and character.

Elegy

Elegy is meditative lyric poem lamenting the death of a public personage or of a friend or loved one; by extension, any reflective lyric on the broader theme of human mortality.

Enlightening

Noun en-light-en-ment in-'lī-t'n-mənt. en- : the act or means of enlightening : the state of being enlightened capitalized: a philosophical movement of the 18th century marked by a rejection of traditional social, religious, and political ideas and an emphasis on rationalism.

Epic

Epic is long narrative poem recounting heroic deeds. The term has also been loosely used to describe novels, such as Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace, and motion pictures, such as Sergey Eisenstein's Ivan the Terrible. In literary usage, the term encompasses both oral and written compositions.

Epic is long narrative that is magnificent in theme tone and style Epic deals with legendary or historical events of national or universal significance it's celebrates heroic dates deeds and cosmically important events most Epic deal with the exploits of heroes who have qualities that are super human or divine and on whose very fate depends the destiny of a tribe nation or the whole human race the Epic has several features such as the presentation of supernatural forces that shape the action battles and conflicts in vocation to the Muse; statement of the theme long lists of the protagonists involved and lofty speeches the greeks made a clear distinctions between Epic and layer poetry, examples of epic include the ancient Greek Epics by Homer the Iliad and the Odyssey epics may synthesize the ideal of great religious and cultural movement

Fancy and Imagination

Fancy the power of conception and representation in artistic expression (such as through the use of figures of speech by a poet). The term is sometimes used as a synonym for imagination, especially in the sense of the power of conceiving and giving artistic form to that which is not existent, known, or experienced.

Imitation

A literary work designed to reproduce the style of another author. The repetition by one voice of a melody, phrase, or motive stated earlier in the composition by a different voice.

Intentional fallacy

Intentional fallacy term used in 20th-century, literary criticism to describe the problem inherent in trying to judge a work of art by assuming the intent or purpose of the artist who created it.

Motif

In narrative, a motif is a distinctive repeating feature or idea; often, it helps develop other narrative aspects such as theme or mood. A narrative motif can be created through the use of imagery, structural components, language, and other elements throughout literature.

Ode

An ode is a type of lyrical stanza. It is an elaborately structured poem praising or glorifying an event or individual, describing nature intellectually as well as emotionally. A classic ode is structured in three major parts: the strophe, the antistrophe, and the epode.

Onomatopoeia

The naming of a thing or action by imitation of natural sounds (as "buzz" or "hiss"): the use of words whose sound suggests the sense (as for poetic effect) onomatopoeic.

PARADOX

A paradox is a statement, proposition, or situation that seems illogical, absurd or self-contradictory, but which, upon further scrutiny, may be logical or true — or at least contain an element of truth. Paradoxes often express ironies and incongruities and attempt to reconcile seemingly opposing ideas.

Plot

Plot, in fiction, the structure of interrelated actions, consciously selected and arranged by the author. Plot involves a considerably higher level of narrative organization than normally occurs in a story or fable.

Figure of speech

Figure of speech, any intentional deviation from literal statement or common usage that emphasizes, clarifies, or embellishes both written and spoken language. Forming an integral part of language, figures of speech are found in oral literatures as well as in polished poetry and prose and in everyday speech.

Satire

Satire is the art of making someone or something look ridiculous, raising laughter in order to embarrass, humble, or discredit its targets.

Soliloquy

Soliloquy is the word we traditionally use to refer to a monologue that is delivered when the character is alone. In Shakespeare's plays, for example, there are many speeches that begin with a character saying something like "Now I am alone." And you know you are about to experience a soliloquy.

Sonnet

The sonnet is a fourteen-line poem written in iambic pentameter, employing one of several rhyme schemes, and adhering to a tightly structured thematic organization. The name is taken from the Italian sonetto, which means "a little sound or song."

Tragedy

Tragedy, branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual.

Wit

Wit is a form of intelligent humour, the ability to say or write things that are clever and usually funny. Someone witty is a person who is skilled at making clever and funny remarks. Forms of wit include the quip, repartee, and wisecrack.

Reference

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