English glossary Year 6 Unit 1

Key terms	Definition
adverb	An adverb is a word class that may modify (add a description to) a verb. For example, the word **'beautifully'** in 'She sings **beautifully**'. In English, many adverbs have an **–ly** ending. (AC)
antagonist	A person or character whose actions usually pose a problem for the **main character**; this problem functions to provide an opportunity for the main character to develop or change.
character development	The manner in which a character develops or changes over the course of a narrative.
character traits	The qualities of a person or character involved in a story. For example, honest, hard-working.
characterisation	The process by which the writer reveals the personality (**character traits**) of a character and creates a recognisable identity. Characterisation can be direct (telling the reader what a character is like) or indirect (**showing** the reader through the use of techniques and strategies such as language features).
chronology	The order of past events. That is, arranging events based on when they occur in time. For example, timelines start from the earliest event to the latest.
clause	A grammatical unit that refers to a happening or state. It usually contains a subject and a verb group/phrase. For example: the dog ran after the ball. (AC)
climax	The most intense or exciting part of a story, usually the moment of significant change for the **main character** and their dilemma (conflict); usually takes place during the **complication** and after the **rising action**, but it can occur in the **orientation**.
complex sentence	A sentence with one or more subordinate clauses. In the following example, the subordinating clause is indicated by square brackets. *I took my umbrella [because it was raining]*. (AC)
complication	A complication is a series of events that takes place after the **orientation**. The events include the **rising action, climax** and **falling action**. Each event in the complication advances the plot and increases tension and suspense for the reader.
conflict	**Conflict** is the struggle between two or more forces in a story. Conflict can be *internal* — in a character's mind — or *external* — between characters or between a character and other outside forces.

Key terms	Definition
cultural context	The culture in which the text was created. The cultural setting of a narrative can impact on the development of characters and the plot.
dialogue	Dialogue is the conversation (written or spoken) between two or more people. In narrative stories, dialogue is denoted by either single or double quotation marks such as "dialogue" or 'dialogue'. Dialogue is also known as direct speech.
emphasis	A strategy authors use to achieve a purposeful effect, specifically to give importance to particular aspects of a story.
exaggeration	A strategy authors use to achieve a purposeful effect, specifically to overstate or distort the essence of a thing or person in an excessive manner.
falling action	A stage in **plot structure** that takes place during the **complication**. The **falling action** happens after the **climax**.
first person	A particular type of **narrative point of view** in which the reader knows the thoughts and feelings of the character who is telling the story.
historical context	The time in which a text was created or set.
infer	To **infer** is when a reader uses information in the text and combines it with their own knowledge. For example, to use what you are reading to work out why things are happening or why people behave the way they do.
language features	The features of language which support meaning. For example, sentence structure, noun group/phrase, vocabulary, punctuation, figurative language. The use of language features varies according to the purpose of the text, its subject matter, audience and mode and medium of production. (AC)
main character	The person in a story who plays the main part and is opposed by an **antagonist**. Sometimes the **main character** is also called a **protagonist**.
metaphor	A literary device or **strategy** that is not meant to be taken literally. For example, 'he had a heart of stone' means he was not very caring. Also, to say that one thing *is* another ('The warrior *is* a lion on the battlefield').
mood	The feeling or atmosphere created by the language features and literary devices in a story or poem.
motivation	The reasons why people behave the way they do.

Queensland Government

Key terms	Definition
narrative elements	All parts that make up a narrative text (for example, plot structure, language features, theme, setting, conflict, narrative point of view, and characterisation).
narrative point of view	The ways in which the narrator may be related to the story. For example, the narrator might take the role of first or third person or third person narrator's perspective.
noun	A **noun** is a word class that includes all words meaning physical objects such as 'man', 'woman', 'boy', 'girl', 'diamond', 'car', 'window', etc. A noun can be a name, place or thing. **AC**
noun groups	**Noun groups** consist of a noun as the major element, alone or accompanied by one or more modifiers. For example: 'the car', 'the old man's house', 'a nice day', etc. **AC**
orientation	A stage in plot structure. The beginning of a story that introduces important narrative elements. Often the elements involve characters and setting.
perspective	See **narrative point of view**.
plot	A series of events organised into the orientation, complication and resolution that builds tension in the story and maintains interest for the reader.
plot structure	Plot (or narrative) structure is the way the events are organised and sequenced in a story: **orientation, complication, resolution**.
plot tension	The build-up of **complication** in a narrative plot that the main character has to overcome. **Plot tension**, or suspense, maintains the interest of the audience.
protagonist	See **main character**.
purpose	A method of classifying texts and defining a relationship between an author, a text and an imagined reader (audience). The purpose of a text influences its characteristic features.
repetition	A strategy authors use to achieve a purposeful effect. Repetition gives emphasis to an aspect of text or character. See also **language patterns** (Australian curriculum glossary and content descriptors/elaborations)
resolution	The final stage of **plot structure**. It takes place after the **orientation**, **complication**, **rising action**, the **climax** and **falling action**. In the resolution, the original complication is fully resolved and the **plot tension** of the story evaporates. The resolution often gives a sense of an ending to a reader.

Key terms	Definition
rising action	A stage in **plot structure** that takes place after the **orientation** and during **complication**. Rising action is made up of the **actions** that lead up to the **climax**.
setting	The time in history and the place or geographical location where the story takes place.
social context	The social situation in which language is being used. For example, the text is set in a different society that has different ways of speaking and interacting.
strategies	The language choices or devices used by authors to achieve a purposeful effect, including **exaggeration, repetition, emphasis, plot tension** and **suspense**.
subordinate clause	A subordinate clause functions within the structure of another clause. It is also referred to as a dependent clause because on its own, it does not make sense.
subordinating conjunction	Conjunctions which introduce certain kinds of subordinate clauses. They include conjunctions such as 'after', 'when', 'because', 'if' and 'that'.
suspense	A feeling engendered in a reader which arises out of **plot tension** and the question: what will happen next?
theme	The main idea or message of a text.
third person	A particular type of **narrative point of view** in which the narrator of the story is not a character in it.
title	The name of a book, story or creative composition.
verb	A **verb** is a word class that describes a kind of situation such as a happening (for example, the word '**climbed**' in 'She **climbed** the ladder') or a state (for example, the word 'is' in 'The koala is an Australian mammal'). **AC** Verbs are essential to clauses (sentence) structure.
verb groups	**Verb groups** are made up of a main verb or a main verb that is modified by an auxiliary or modal verb. This means a description has been added to it. For example, verb groups/phrases: • create tense, as in 'He [was happy]', 'She [is working] at home', I [have seen] him before' • express modality using modal verbs such as 'can', 'may', 'must', 'will', 'shall', etc., as in 'You [must be] mad', 'He [will have arrived] by now', 'She [may know] them' • create passive voice, as in 'A photo [was taken]. **AC**