

JC English– Key Definitions

Alliteration



The repetition of the same consonant sound, usually at the beginning of words used together.

Anecdote



A very short story used to illustrate a point.

By-line



Line at the head of a magazine or newspaper article saying who wrote it.

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Colloquialism



Informal or conversational language.

Diction



The choice of words used in a literary work.

Dramatic irony



When the audience at a play knows more about a character's situation than the character himself or herself does.

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Epic

REVISE
WISE

A long narrative poem celebrating the deeds of one or more legendary hero(es).

Fable

REVISE
WISE

A brief tale that contains a moral lesson.

Hyperbole

REVISE
WISE

Exaggeration for the sake of effect.

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Logo



A symbol or design that identifies a particular company or group.

Masthead



The name of a newspaper, found at the top of the front page.

Narrator



The person who tells the story.

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Onomatopoeia

REVISE
WISE

Words that seem to echo the sound they refer to.

Oratory

REVISE
WISE

The art of public speaking.

Protagonist

REVISE
WISE

The main character in a play

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Quatrain

REVISE
WISE

A stanza in poetry of four lines.

Register

REVISE
WISE

The appropriate tone or language used in different situations.

Soliloquy

REVISE
WISE

A speech made by one character as he/she is alone on stage in a play

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Style



The way a writer writes, e.g. choice of language, expression.

Symbol



A type of image in which something is used to represent something else.

Tabloid



Newspapers of smaller size, usually less serious than broadsheets.

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Theme

REVISE
WISE

The main idea in a poem, story, etc.

Tragedy

REVISE
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A serious play depicting the downfall of a central character.

Voice

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WISE

The speaker of the poem (not always intended to be the poet himself or