



Vocabulary for Personal Narrative



Term	Definition/Explanation	Example
Theme	The central or dominating idea, or “message” in a literary work. Themes are often inferred (implied), rather than directly stated.	
Imagery	The making of “pictures in words.” Imagery appeals to the senses of sight, taste, smell, hearing, and touch, as well as internal feelings.	
Characterization	The method by which the author creates a description of a character’s actions, words, thoughts, and feelings to convey the appearance and personality of imaginary people.	
Symbolism	The technique of using something concrete (an object, place, character, action) to represent or suggest something abstract. In literature, symbols are meant to be taken both literally and figuratively.	
Alliteration	A <u>literary or rhetorical stylistic device</u> that consists in repeating the same <u>consonant</u> sound at the beginning of two or more words in close succession.	
Mood/Tone	The emotional attitude in a literary work (i.e. hopefulness, perseverance, sadness).	

—from *NTC’s Dictionary of Literary Terms*

Vocabulary

Hands-on

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Vocabulary

Hands-on

Plot	The arrangement of incidents in a narrative, including a beginning, a middle and an ending.
Protagonist	The central character of the literary work.
Setting	The place, time in history or social environment in which the story takes place.
Simile	A figure of speech that uses like or as to compare two different objects, actions or attributes.
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which one thing is imaginatively compared to another thing.
Personification	A figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to animals, plants, inanimate objects or natural forces.