

Broken Arrow Public Schools

2nd Grade Literary Terms and Elements

Terms NEW to 2nd Grade Students:

Biography- the story of a person's life.

Cause and Effect- the reason (cause) something happened and what happened (effect) to it.

Watering the flowers makes them grow.

Cause: watering **Effect:** flowers grow.

Compare and Contrast- to look at two people or almost any two things and tell how they are alike and/or different.

Dialogue- The dialogue is what the characters are saying.

Fable- a short story or **poem** that teaches a lesson (moral). Usually fables show animals acting like people.

Fact- information or details about a real event, person, place, or time. Facts are important **details** in **non-fiction** writing.

Folk Tale- a made-up story that tells about how a group of people live. The beliefs, values, habits, common problems, and even language of this group will be part of the story.

Infer (Inference)- to come to an understanding of something through reasoning; to reason through information in order to draw a conclusion not stated.

Informational Text- any non-fiction writing that is meant to give the reader information or knowledge about a subject rather than just tell the story about someone's life or give someone's opinion about a subject.

Legend- a story that is at least part made-up, and might be part real. These stories are usually about great deeds or amazing adventures, but there is no historical proof for it. Legends might have magical creatures or might not. The **characters** in a legend might have been real people or might have been made up. Legends are usually more made-up than real, even when they are about real people and we want to believe them.

The story that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree when he was a boy and then told his father, “I cannot tell a lie, I chopped down the cherry tree” is a legend and most likely never happened.

Onomatopoeia- words that are spelled like the sound they represent. *Bark. Pop. Zip. Pow.*

Opinion- a person’s feelings or ideas about a subject, person, event, or any other topic. Everyone can have opinions about something, and opinions are considered **non-fiction**, but it is very important to remember that opinions are not **facts** and do not prove that the ideas of the writer are true.

Poetry/Poem- writing that does not use standard sentence structure and paragraph formatting. Often poems use **rhythm** and **rhyme** as part of their structure and will have specific line length and be set in **stanzas** rather than normal paragraphs.

Prose- writing that uses the normal patterns and structures of usage and grammar, rather than in lines and **stanzas** like poetry. Everything written except for poems is prose.

Purpose- the **Main Idea** of the story, the message the writer is wanting the reader to understand: *to entertain, to inform, or to persuade.*

Rhyme scheme- the pattern of the lines in poetry, both **rhyming** and unrhymed lines. The word ending the first line is designated “a,” as are the lines ending with a word that rhymes with it. The next line that does not rhyme with the first is designated as “b,” as are all lines that rhyme with it. And so forth. The two **stanzas** below from “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” show the poems pattern of rhyming couplets:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star!	a
How I wonder what you are,	a
Up above the world so high,	b
Like a diamond in the sky.	b
When the glorious sun is set,	c
When the grass with dew is wet,	c
Then you show your little light,	d
Twinkle, twinkle all the night.	d

Stanza- a group of lines in a poem. A stanza is the equivalent of a paragraph in **poetry**.

Tall Tale- a story that is made-up that tries to tell how natural events came to be. Tall tales were not meant to be believed, but are supposed to be a little silly and

too strange to be true. Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, Babe the Blue Ox, and John Henry are all famous tall tale characters.

Terms taught in Previous Years:

Alliteration- The repetition of the same sounds or the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables.

Digby the dog likes to dig in the dirt.

Author- person who writes something.

Autobiography- the story of a person's life written by that person, telling the story of your own life is an autobiography.

Character- any of the people, animals, or creatures who are involved with the story.

Fairy Tale- a story that is made-up and has magical creatures or people. Some fairy tales tell a lesson, like fables. Some fairy tales you might know are "Cinderella," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "The Frog Prince."

Fiction- writing, a story, that is not true and is not meant to be thought to be true. Fiction stories are written to entertain, to relate a **theme** to the readers, or both.

Non-fiction- writing that is true and is meant to relate information, ideas, **opinions**, or **facts** to the reader. Non-fiction writing will have a **main idea**.

Rhyme- the repetition of the final vowel or vowel sound and all succeeding consonant sounds in two or more words.

Wing rhymes with sing. Hopped rhymes with stopped.

Rhythm- rise and fall of the voice produced by the alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables in language. It can be the flow from one idea or image to the next in poetry. Many poems have a rhythm.

Sequence- the order of things in a group or set. The sequence of a story is beginning, middle, and then end. A writer will use the sequence of events as a means of organization.

Setting- the time and place of a story. When and where the story takes place.

Text- a piece of writing, in whole or part. It can be any selection of writing, large or small, **fiction** or **non-fiction**, **prose** or **poetry**.

Title- the name of a story, poem, or book. The title will be on the cover and title page of a book.