

Vocabulary for Writing about Literature

(an incomplete list)

To say what a writer or narrator does:

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ alludes to | ▪ demonstrates | ▪ heightens/lessens | ▪ refutes |
| ▪ alters | ▪ depicts | ▪ hints at | ▪ repudiates |
| ▪ asserts | ▪ describes | ▪ ignites | ▪ reveals |
| ▪ changes | ▪ differentiates | ▪ implies | ▪ shifts |
| ▪ clarifies | ▪ dispels | ▪ inspires | ▪ shows (weak) |
| ▪ compares | ▪ elicits | ▪ invokes | ▪ solidifies |
| ▪ conjures up | ▪ elucidates | ▪ juxtaposes | ▪ stirs |
| ▪ connotes | ▪ emphasizes | ▪ maintains | ▪ suggests |
| ▪ constrains | ▪ enhances | ▪ manipulates | ▪ tackles |
| ▪ construes | ▪ enunciates | ▪ masters | ▪ transcends |
| ▪ conveys | ▪ evokes | ▪ paints | ▪ twists |
| ▪ creates | ▪ explains | ▪ portrays | ▪ uses (weak) |
| ▪ delineates | ▪ explores | ▪ produces | ▪ utilizes (über-weak) |

To name the tools the writer uses:

- comic details
- details
- diction
- figurative language
- foreshadowing
- imagery, images
- irony
- plot details
- point of view
- setting
- symbols
- syntax
- tone

To talk about the effect on a reader:

- anger
- awareness
- connections
- contrasts
- empathy, sympathy, apathy, antipathy
- impact
- intensity
- laughter
- mood
- pathos / bathos
- shock
- lassitude/tedium