

VOCABULARY FOR WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

(an incomplete list)

To say what a writer or narrator does:

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