

VOCABULARY- Senior English Unit 3

adaptation	in biology, a change in structure, function, or behavior by which a species or individual improves its chance of survival in a specific environment
allusion	reference within one text to another text
alternating order	a form of organizing a comparative essay in which the writer addresses both views of each comparison point one at a time
archaic language	phrasing and word usage that was common at one time, but is no longer used in the same way
Arthurian legend	the stories associated with a legendary British king whose capital, Camelot, was home to the Knights of the Round Table, renowned for their bravery, fighting skill, and chivalry
austere	severe or strict, and lacking any comforts or luxuries
autonomy	the condition of being independent or free from another's control
ballad	a poem that narrates a story
block order	a form of organizing a comparative essay that covers all the points on one item of comparison before addressing the points of the other item
Bildungsroman	German term for a coming-of-age novel or a novel of formation
character foil	a character who contrasts with another, and, in doing so, draws attention to their differences
chivalry	the ideal created for knights in the Middle Ages, which required them to be brave, honorable, loyal, and considerate to others—women in particular
cliché	a colorful use of language that has, through overuse, lost its power and effectiveness
coming-of-age story	a type of narrative that relates the process by which a child grows up and gains maturity
connotation	the implied meaning of a word, which includes emotional associations
context clue	hint about the meaning of a word based on its use and the words around it

denotation	the specific, literal meaning of a word
denouement	the final resolution or events that occur following the climax of a narrative
despotism	a form of government that has one ruler who cruelly or arbitrarily abuses power
direct characterization	aspects of a character's nature or personality that are revealed to the reader directly, whether through the narrator's observations, the words or actions of the character, or the words or actions of other characters
end rhyme	rhyming the final syllables of lines in poetry
Enjambment	The term as a literary device refers to the practice of running lines of poetry from one to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop (periods, commas, etc.).
foreshadowing	hinting or suggesting events that will happen later in a literary work
genera	biology term that means descent, family, type, gender
Gothic novel	a long narrative that includes such elements as a vulnerable heroine, a dark and brooding hero with a painful secret, and an air of mystery and danger with elements of the supernatural
impetuous	impulsive or rash
indirect characterization	aspects of a character's nature or personality that the reader must infer on the basis of information in the text
Industrial Revolution	transpiring in England around the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this is a time when individuals began working in factories, when hand tools gave way to powered machines, and when people began moving into or closer to urban areas
intelligent design	the theory that matter, the various forms of life, and the world were created by an intelligent designer or intelligent Creator
internal conflict	a struggle taking place inside the mind of a character
irony	the expression of words or ideas opposed to what is literally meant or expected
liberalism	a political ideology with its beginnings in Western Europe that rejects authoritarian government and defends freedom of speech, association, and religion, and the right to own property
metaphor	a type of figurative language that compares something to something it differs from and, in doing so, points out similarities

Metonymy	Metonymy is a figure of speech that replaces the name of a thing with the name of something else with which it is closely associated. We can come across examples of metonymy both from literature and in everyday life. For example, the word “crown” is used to refer to power or authority is a metonymy.
mood	the emotion or atmosphere evoked by a literary work
motif	recurring symbolic element in a work of art
motivation	the reason (or reasons) that a character behaves in a particular way, which can reflect that character’s personality, life experiences, ideals, values, and goals
novel of manners	a long narrative that forms a study of the characteristic behaviors, customs, and values of a particular society
polarize	causing two opposing and somewhat hostile reactions
predestination	the doctrine that God, in consequence of his foreknowledge of all events, infallibly guides those who are destined for salvation
problem play	a play that addresses a problem in society through its characters; characters in a problem play typically represent the various societal viewpoints of the respective problem
Realism	a movement in literature and the arts in which authors and artists attempted to depict reality while avoiding the insertion of supernatural or exotic elements
realistic contemporary drama	a specific type of drama that addressed societal issues, and presented everyday people in ordinary situations
regression	backward movement of a character, as opposed to progress; can refer either to changing or returning to an earlier, undesirable state
Romanticism	a movement in literature and the arts during the late 18th and early nineteenth centuries that focused on individuality and inspiration found through nature
struggle	to make strenuous or violent efforts in the face of difficulties or opposition
symbol	a person, object, or event that has meaning beyond its literal significance
syntax	the placement of words, phrases, and clauses in a particular order in a sentence
thesis	a form of organizing a comparative essay in which the writer addresses both views of each comparison point one at a time
Utilitarianism	the ethical doctrine that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the criterion of the virtue of action

variation

according to Darwin, the product of natural selection; diversity

Victorian Era

the period in England when Queen Victoria reigned, from 1837 until 1901; this time period was known for its focus on morality, human behavior, and etiquette