

## GLOSSARY OF LITERACY TERMS

(taken from the NLS)

Adjective	A word or phrase which is added or linked to a noun to describe or modify it. It may come before or after the noun - the <b>red</b> dress/the dress was <b>red</b> .
Adverb	A word or phrase which describes or modifies a verb. Many adverbs have a suffix -ly: happily, quickly.
Alliteration	A phrase where adjacent or closely connected words begin with the same phoneme (sound/letter) eg several silent, slithering snakes
Apostrophe '	A punctuation mark indicating: Contraction: two words shortened into one eg do not = don't, can not= can't Possession: Applied to all possessives marked by s, except its. Eg the girl's frock (belonging to the girl)
Audience	The people addressed by the text. The term refers to listeners, readers of books and film/TV audiences
Autobiography	A life story of an individual written by the person.
Ballad	A poem or story which tells a story.
Biography	A life story of an individual written by another author.
Character	An individual in a story or play or poem whose personality can be inferred from their actions and dialogue.
Clause	Distinct part of a sentence including a verb.
Colon	A punctuation mark used to introduce: a list, a quotation or a second clause which expands or illustrates the first: he was very cold: the temperature was below zero.
Comma	Punctuation mark marking the relationship between parts of a sentence, or used to separate items in a list.
Compound Word	A word made up of two other words: football, headrest.
Comprehension	The level of understanding a text.
Conjunction	A word used to link sentences or clauses or to connect words within the same phrase.
Connective	Words and phrases used to link different parts of a text.
Dialogue	A conversation between two parties, may be spoken or written.
Discussion Text	A text which represents all sides of an issue.
Draft	Preliminary written form of a document.
Edit	To modify/change either own or another's work.
Ellipsis . . .	This signifies a place where something has been omitted, or there is a pause or interruption. The dots which mark this are called ellipsis.

Empathy	Identifying with another, the ability to see situations from the other point of view.
Exclamation Mark	Punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence to indicate great emotion, such as joy or anger.
Explanation Text	Text written to explain a process or answer a question.
Fable	A short story which is devised and written to convey a useful moral issue. Animals are often used as characters.
Fairy Tale	A story written for, or told to, children which include elements of magic and magical folk.
Fiction	Text which is invented by a writer of speaker.
Genre	Refers to different types of writing.
Grapheme	Written representation of a sound, may consists of one or more letters.
Guided Reading	A classroom activity in which pupils are taught in groups according to reading ability.
Guided Writing	A classroom activity in which pupils are grouped by writing ability.
Homograph	Word with same spelling as another, but different meaning eg a <b>lead</b> pencil/the dog's <b>lead</b> .
Homophone	Words which sound the same but have different meaning or spelling eg right/write/rite.
Hyphen	A punctuation mark which links two words or parts of words.
Imperative	A sentence which constitutes a request/command for action eg Get me a drink.
Information Text	Text written to inform.
Instruction Text	Text written to help readers achieve certain goals
Metaphor	Where the writer writes about something as if it were really something else.
Modelling	Refers to demonstration of an aspect of reading or writing a teacher or adult support.
Myth	An ancient traditional story of gods or heroes which address a problem or concern human existence.
Narrative Text	Text which re-tells events.
Non Chronological	Organised without reference to time sequence.
Onomatopoeia	Words which echo sounds associated with meaning eg clang, hiss, and crash.
Paragraph	A section or piece of writing.
Personification	A form or metaphor in which language relating to human action eg the weather is smiling on us today.
Persuasive Text	Text which aims to persuade the reader.
Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in a word.
Phrase	Two or more words which act as one unit.
Prefix	Added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning eg <b>inedible</b> , <b>infinite</b> .

Pronouns	A word used instead of a preceding noun or noun phrase to improve writing by reducing repetition eg Peter is a good reader, <b>he</b> especially enjoys the action books.
Question Mark	Punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence to denote a question.
Recount Text	A text written to retell.
Report Text	A non chronological text written to describe or classify.
Semi-Colon ;	A punctuation mark used to separate phrases or clauses in a sentence.
Sentence	A sentence is a unit of written language which makes sense on it own. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark, exclamation mark.
Simile	The writer creates an image in readers minds by comparing a subject to something else eg as strong as an ox.
Suffix	Added to the end of a word.
Tense	Tells us when something is happening.
Verb	Word/group of words which names an action or state of being