**Vocabulary for Critical Analysis**

*Taken from "The International Story" by Ruth Packer ISBN 0-521-65797-0*

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**Author's attitude toward characters or ideas**

- admiring / condescending
- amused / dismayed
- approving / disapproving
- assured / ambivalent
- caring / hostile
- complimentary / sarcastic
- concerned / apathetic
- confident / uncertain
- hopeful / disillusioned
- idealistic / cynical
- impartial / biased
- laudatory / mocking
- optimistic / pessimistic
- straightforward / ironic
- sympathetic / unsympathetic
- wistful / indifferent

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"The narrator reveals . . ."
"The narrator discloses . . ."
"The narrator brings to light . . ."
"The narrator recognizes . . ."
"The narrator learns . . ."
"The narrator discovers . . ."
"The narrator thinks . . ."
"The narrator perceives . . ."
"The narrator imagines . . ."
"Through the narrator we learn . . ."
"According to the narrator, the main character is . . ."
"Using the first-person point of view, the author creates a narrator who . . ."

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**Developing a Vocabulary for Discussing Character**

1. evil, wicked, sinful, corrupt, unprincipled
2. kind, tender, mild, gracious, indulgent
3. beautiful, handsome, graceful, elegant, delicate
4. foolish, silly, simple, unwise, indiscreet
5. insensitive, indifferent, dull, frigid, cold-hearted
6. impotent, powerless, weak, helpless, incompetent
7. submissive, obedient, passive, humble, resigned
8. strong, energetic, tough, forceful, powerful
9. strict, religious, harsh, rigid, scrupulous
10. sincere, frank, honest, open, artless
11. shy, fearful, modest, timid, wary
12. dishonest, false, crooked, deceptive, dishonorable
13. proud, arrogant, haughty, dignified, majestic
14. successful, prosperous, fortunate, victorious, unbeaten
15. discontented, depressed, regretful, displeased, morose
16. honest, candid, genuine, upright, ingenious

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**Reader's impression of the story as a whole**

- serene / nerve-racking
- genial / frightening
- comic / tragic
- humorous / depressing
- joyful / solemn
- light / profound
- lucid / obscure
- playful / earnest
- pleasant / horrifying
- reassuring / ominous
- heart-rending / insensitive

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**THE AUTHOR . . .**

- brings to light
- concentrates on
- creates
- discloses
- emphasizes
- exposes
- focuses on
- idealizes
- lays bare

- molds
- opens up
- shapes
- uncovers
- underscores
- underlines
- unmasks
- unveils
- voices
A Useful List of Connectives

Connectives, transition words and phrases help establish clear connections between ideas and ensure that sentences and paragraphs flow together smoothly, making them easier to read. Use the following words and phrases in the following circumstances.

To indicate more information:
Besides
Furthermore
In addition
Indeed
Similarly
As well as this
Likewise
In the same way
In fact
Moreover
Second...Third..., etc.

To indicate an example:
For example
For instance
In particular
Particularly
Specifically
To demonstrate
To illustrate

To indicate a cause or reason:
As
Because
Because of
Due to
For
For the reason that
Since

To indicate a result or an effect:
Accordingly
Finally
Consequently
As a result of this
For that reason
Hence
So
Therefore
Thus

To indicate a purpose or reason why:
For fear that
In the hope that
In order to
So
So that
With this in mind

To compare or contrast:
Although
However
In comparison
In contrast

To compare or contrast (cont'd):
Likewise
Nevertheless
However
Alternatively
Having said that
Conversely
Notwithstanding
On the contrary
On the other hand
Similarly
Whereas
Yet

To indicate a particular time frame or a shift from one time period to another:
After
Before
Currently
During
Eventually
Finally
First... Second..., etc.
Formerly
Immediately
Initially
Lastly
Later
Meanwhile
Next
Previously
Simultaneously
Soon
Subsequently

To summarise:
Briefly
In brief
Overall
Summing up
In summary
To put it briefly
To sum up
To summarise

To conclude:
Given those facts it is therefore clear that
Hence
In conclusion
So
Therefore
Thus
To conclude