

VOCABULARY FOR CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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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

"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 . . ."

THE AUTHOR . . .

brings to light	molds
concentrates on	opens up
creates	shapes
discloses	uncovers
emphasizes	underscores
exposes	underlines
focuses on	unmasks
idealizes	unveils
lays bare	voices

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. ~~discontent, depressed, regretful, displeased, morose~~
16. honest, candid, genuine, upright, ingenuous

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

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 these facts
It is therefore clear that
Hence
In conclusion
So
Therefore
Thus
To conclude