

200 terms and definitions for language arts

A group of scenes in a play **an act**
A small part added to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning. **an affix**
Repetition of initial consonant sounds: "Peter Piper Picked a peck of pickled peppers." **alliteration**
A book containing lists of facts, published every year. **an almanac**
A comparison between two pairs of things: apple : red :: banana : yellow **an analogy**
Clearly stated; easy to see **apparent**
Transfer an idea from your reading to a new situation in real life. **apply**
Take something for granted. **assume**
A book of maps **an atlas**
How the author feels about his or her topic. **attitude**
The person who wrote the selection **an author**
The story of a person's life; written by that person. **an autobiography**
A summary of events that happened before the story begins. **background information**
The start of a selection **the beginning**
A strong opinion about a topic that influences the way a writer writes. **bias**
The story of a person's life written by another author **a biography**
Words written in dark, heavy type that looks like **this**. **bold print**
A list of all the characters in a play, found at the beginning of the script. **cast of characters**
Something that makes something else happen **a cause**
A person or animal who takes part in a story **a character**
Details that describe what kind of person a character is. **characteristics**
Make the writing clearer and easier to understand. **clarify**
The most important event in the story; the moment the conflict is resolved. **the climax**
A play with a happy ending; usually funny but it doesn't have to be! **a comedy**
Tell how two things are alike. **compare**
A statement that tells how two things are alike or different **a comparison**
A decision a reader makes about what is happening in the story, based on evidence. **a conclusion**
The problem characters in a story are trying to solve. **a conflict**
Explain how ideas in a selection are similar to other texts and the real world. **connect**
Words around an unknown word that help you figure out its meaning. **context clues**
Tell how two things are different. **contrast**
A moveable piece of cloth separating the audience from the stage in a drama **a curtain**
Writing that gives details about a person, place, thing, or action. **descriptive writing**
A variety of English spoken by a certain group of people: "You ain't gone?" **a dialect**
Words characters say to one another in piece of writing. **dialogue**
A book of words and their definitions **a dictionary**
Twist the facts out of their true meaning. **distort**
A piece of writing intended to be performed by actors. **drama**
Changed a story into a drama **dramatized**
The result of a cause **an effect**
Point something out as being important. **emphasize**
Feelings that make you act in a certain way. **emotional factors**
A book or set of books containing facts and explanations of a wide variety of subjects **encyclopedia**
Judge the quality of something good; decide how good or bad something is. **evaluate**
A piece of writing that tells how good or bad something is. **an evaluation**
Something that happens in a story **an event**
Stretching the truth; making something greater than it really is. **exaggeration**