

## 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**