



Glossary of Reading Vocabulary

- ✓ To develop full comprehension of these terms, students can locate or make up examples that show their meaning.
- ✓ Add more academic terms to help your students read thoughtfully.

Word or Phrase	Meaning
according to	Based on—Common Core standard 1 emphasizes reading closely—making sure that the reader knows what the text says and then using that information to draw conclusions
alliteration	Two or more syllables or words in a row that start with the same sound
antonym	A word that means the opposite of another word
article	A piece writing about a specific topic
author's purpose	The writer's reason for writing the passage
autobiography	The history of a person's life, written by that person
best explains	Is the clearest reason for something
biography	The history of a person's life, written by a different person
claim	A position or idea that someone states
comparison	How things are the same and different from each other
conclusion	The end of a story or another kind of writing—in the conclusion the writer usually makes the message of the writing clear.
conclusions	What someone decides
constructed response	In a constructed response, you answer the question with information and ideas from the text. You do not include your own experience or ideas. You analyze what you read.
define	Explain the meaning of
descriptive	Explanatory
detail	A specific or particular part
dialogue	Conversation
drama	Telling a story on stage
emotion	A feeling
entertain	Amuse or hold someone's interest
etymology	The history of a word
event	Something that happens
evidence	Information used to reach a conclusion
expository	Writing used to explain something



Word or Phrase	Meaning
fable	A story that teaches a lesson
fairy tale	A story for children with magical characters
fictional	Writing that is made up, not based on facts
first person	A story told by a person in the story, using “I.”
flashback	An event that took place earlier, that the writer includes in a story
genre	Category or type. In literature there are many different genres, including kinds of fiction such as science fiction or realistic fiction and nonfiction including articles and biographies. The kind of genre is important to know so you know what strategies to use to comprehend it.
historical fiction	A story that is made up, but based on historical facts
humor	Comedy, amusement
idiom	An expression that means something different than the actual words—such as “I see the light”
illustration	Drawing
image	A way to help someone see what you mean—describing it in detail. For example, the sun was shining so brightly that the water was sparkling
include	Put into something—for example, a writer includes details in a story to help the reader understand it.
inform	To give or communicate knowledge
irony	Express an idea by using the opposite of what the words seem to mean—such as “thanks a lot” when someone has not been helpful
legend	A story that has been passed down over time
literary device	A technique an author uses to create meaning
main purpose	The most important reason for a statement or action
metaphor	Comparing two things that are not usually alike
minor detail	Information about a topic, situation, person, place, or event that is not important
mood	How the reader feels—the writer uses techniques to influence the reader’s feelings such as using a setting that is cheerful or one that is gloomy.
narrative	A story or telling of events
narrator	The person who tells a story
nonfiction	Writing that is a report of factual information about a topic
objective	Purpose or goal— <i>that is one definition</i>
objective	Taking a position that is not influenced by feelings— <i>this is another definition</i>
occurred	Happened
omniscient	All-knowing—a narrator who is omniscient knows what the characters are thinking as well as what happened



Word or Phrase	Meaning
onomatopoeia	A word that sounds like a noise (such as “boom”)
opinion	What someone thinks or feels about something
opposite	Completely different from something else
organized	How something is arranged
organizational pattern	How a writer arranges the contents of a narrative, expository, or persuasive passage—for example, sequential order; cause and effect; compare and contrast
paragraph	A group of sentences that are connected by an idea
passage	A text or part of a text
personification	Giving human traits to something that is not human
persuasive	Convincing
plot	What happens in a story or play
point of view	The perspective of a narrator of a story
purpose	Reason for doing something
qualities (of a person)	The traits of a person—these are basic to the person’s identity and do not change the way feelings do
reason	Motive for doing something
repetition	Doing or saying something again
resolution	How people solve a problem
rewrite	Write again
rhyme	Words that sound the same
Second person	The writer speaks directly to the reader, usually telling what to do.
selection	A reading passage
senses	How people see, hear, and feel things
setting	The place where a story happens
short story	A brief narrative
simile	Comparing two things that are not alike by using the words “as” or “like”
solve, solution	How people fix a problem
statement	Something said or written
structure	The form or build of something
summarize	Explain the main things about a passage—in a story, the main characters, events, theme; in nonfiction, the topic, central idea, and supporting ideas, the most important kinds of information.
summary	A short statement about the main things in a passage
support	Provide evidence
symbol	Something that stands for something else
synonym	A word that means the same as another word
text	A written passage—may include a story, a nonfiction article, many different genres of writing.
theme	A unifying idea, the message of a work of fiction or poetry



Word or Phrase	Meaning
third person objective	A story told by a person who is not involved in the story—the narrator tells what happens but not what the characters think.
third person omniscient	A story told by a narrator who explains what happens and what the characters think—the narrator knows everything
trait	A characteristic of a person or character.
tone	The writer's attitude—how the writer feels—the writer expresses that feeling through the kinds of words used to describe or explain a situation or person.
voice	How the writer communicates—the kinds of words used, the kinds of information provided—usually used to analyze a speech or story or history.

Add more words that thoughtful readers use to analyze what they read.