**Important Literary Terms**

**allegory**: a narrative that serves as an extended metaphor. Allegories are written in the form of fables, parables, poems, stories, and almost any other style or genre. The main purpose of an allegory is to tell a story that both a literal and figurative meaning.

**alliteration**: a pattern of sound that includes the repetition of consonant sounds.  The repetition can be located at the beginning of successive words or inside the words.

**allusion**:  a reference in a literary work to a person, place, or thing in history or another work of literature. Allusions are often indirect or brief references to well-known characters or events. Allusions are often used to summarize broad, complex ideas or emotions in one quick, powerful image.

**Antithesis**: a contrast or opposition in the meanings of contiguous phrases or clauses that are similar in word order or structure (syntax)

**connotation** : an association that comes along with a particular word. Connotations relate not to a word's actual meaning, but rather to the ideas or qualities that are implied by that word.

**denotation**: the exact meaning of a word, without the feelings, associations, or suggestions that the word may imply.

**hyperbole**: an exaggeration. From the Greek for "overcasting," hyperbole is a figure of speech that is a grossly exaggerated description or statement.

**irony**: a term referring to how a person, situation, statement, or circumstance is not as it would actually seem. Many times it is the exact opposite of what it appears to be. Verbal irony occurs when either the speaker/author means something totally different than what he is saying, or the audience realizes, because of their prior knowledge of the situation, that the opposite of what a character is saying is true.

**Metaphor**: a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different thing.

**Oxymoron**: two terms that in ordinary usage are or opposites.

**Parable**: a brief and often simple narrative that illustrates a moral or religious lesson.

**Paradox**: a statement which seems at first glance to be logically contradictory or absurd, yet turns out to be interpretable in a way that makes sense.

**Personification**: A figure of speech where animals, ideas or inorganic objects are given human characteristics.