

Arlington Public Schools
English Language Arts: Reading Glossary

Accuracy: The correct naming of a printed word

Antonyms: A word having the opposite meaning of another word
e.g., young, old

Base word: A word upon which you can add a suffix or prefix to alter meaning
e.g., plan, preplanning, planned

Benchmark: The level of achievement a child is expected to reach at each grade level
e.g., kindergarten end of the year reading level-B3

Cause and Effect: Presenting something that has happened and telling one or more reasons or causes

Chronological Order: Events happening in order and organized by time

Compare and Contrast: A way of illustrating concepts in order to clarify one or both

Compound Words: Two or more words combined to make a new word
e.g., base ball, baseball

Context: The parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific word or passage, usually influencing its meaning or effect.
e.g., you have misinterpreted my remark because you took it out of context.

Context Clues: A strategy that uses the pictures, words or phrases in a sentence to derive meanings of unknown words.

Contraction: A word formed by omitting and combining some of the sounds of two words
e.g., can not, can't

Dialogue: A conversation between characters in a text

Expression: (*see prosody*)

Evaluative Questions: Questions asked whose answers determine the significance, worth, or condition of a topic by careful appraisal and study

Fable: A brief story in prose or verse featuring animals, inanimate objects, and/or forces of nature to illustrate a moral

Fact: Items of information that are true
e.g., the world is round.

Fairy Tale: A fantasy story including specific story elements such as magic, events repeated actions in groups of three animals with human qualities, and characters designated as good and evil

Fantasy: A genre that uses magic as a primary element of plot, theme, or setting; that which comes from one's imagination

Fiction: A narrative that is imagined rather than real and includes elements such as plot, characters, setting, events, and problem resolution

Figurative Phrase: Use of words in a non-literal way to evoke a mental image or sense impression, language that is not intended to be interpreted in a literal way
e.g. "keep your eye on the ball"

Genre: A specific category of literature, marked by a distinctive style, form, or content
e.g., Fiction: contemporary realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, Nonfiction: informational text, biography, memoir

Glossary: A list of specialized words and their definition often placed at the end of a book or document

Grammatical Structures: The building blocks of language, which can be broken down into phrases and clauses

Greek and Latin Roots: Words or parts of words derived from the Greek and Latin languages, which form the basis of our vocabulary

Homonyms: One of two or more words spelled and pronounced alike but different in meaning
e.g., the woman felt blue. The sky was blue.

Homophone: One of two or more words that are pronounced the same, but are different in meaning
e.g., night, knight

Idiom: A common expression that has acquired a meaning that differs from its literal meaning
e.g., it's raining cats and dogs. Don't let the cat out of the bag.

Inference: The process of drawing a conclusion from evidence given in the text

Inflection: The emphasis readers place on specific words by changing voice pitch or tone

Inflectional Form: the change in a word that is the result of adding a prefix or suffix

Informational Text: A text that is intended to provide factual information through text and visual images
e.g., biographies, content area text, articles, internet postings, etc.

Intonation: The way the reader varies the voice in tone, pitch, and volume to reflect the meaning of the text. (expression)

Literal: The basic message of the text that is intended to be understood exactly as it is written

Literal Questions: Questions asked whose answers are found directly in the information of the text

Metaphor: A comparison of ideas without the use of like or as
e.g., the internet is the informational highway

Monitor: To watch, keep track of, or check usually for a special purpose

Mapping: To plan or outline in detail

Metaphor: A comparison of two different things without using like or as
e.g., my closet is a time machine.

Monitor: A strategy used when reading to check for understanding

Narrative: An account of events, experiences, or the like whether true or fictitious

Nonfiction: A text that is intended to provide factual information through text and visual images; contains ideas, facts, and principles

Non-literal: Thinking “beyond the text”, bringing information to the text that is not explicitly there

Nouns: A word that names a person, place, a thing, or an idea

Opinion: A belief or conclusion held with confidence but not proven

Oral fluency rate: The rate at which a passage is read

Pacing: The rate at which reading is accomplished

Palindrome: A word or phrase that reads the same backward as forward
e.g., pop, race car

Paraphrase: Your own interpretation of information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form

Personification: Giving human qualities to an inanimate object
e.g., the flowers danced on the lawn.)

Phonics: Identifying letters of the alphabet, understanding that the sequence of sounds in a spoken word, and understanding phonics elements (letter-sound correspondence, spelling patterns, syllables, and meaningful word parts)

Phrasing: The way readers put words together in groups to represent meaningful units of language

Plot: The actions or events of a story

Prefix: A letter or group of letters (re, pre, un, dis, non, etc) added to a base word that alters it's meaning
e.g., ability, disability

Prior knowledge: Combination of the learners preexisting attitudes, experiences and knowledge

Prosody: Oral expression that includes phrasing, rhythm, pitch, smoothness, pausing and stress all working together in an integrated way to reflect the reader's interpretation of the text

Pun: The usually humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more of its meanings or the meaning of another word similar in sound
e.g., Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Realistic fiction: Stories that are not true, but with plots, characters and settings that might be found in real life present or past

Return sweep: When reading a passage as a student comes to the end of the line of text, to continue reading the student returns to the beginning of the next line

Self-to-text: How text read or heard relates to reader's own life and experiences

Self-to-world: How text read or heard connects to other people or something the reader already knows about the topic (prior knowledge)

Simile: A comparison of two different things using the word like or as
e.g., She was as quick as a bunny.

Skill: The ability to access one's knowledge, practice, or aptitude, to perform well

Strategy: The plan or method used to obtain a goal or a result

Suffix: A letter or letters (s, es, est, etc) added to the end of a word that changes its meaning
e.g., small, smallest

Synthesizing: Merging information with our thinking and shaping it into our own thoughts
e.g., making connections between one's life and other texts and, the world to the selection, putting together information from the text and from the reader's own background knowledge in order to create a new understanding

Synonyms: A word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word
e.g., frightened, scared

Text-to-text: How one piece of text connects to another piece of text. Ex: Two books by the same author or two books on the same subject)

Theme: The big idea of the story, the author's attitude toward a significant human concern or issue

Thesaurus: A dictionary of synonyms and antonyms

Verb: The word that shows action or links a subject to another word in the sentence

Visualize: A strategy in reading where the readers form a mental image

WPM (words per minute): The total numbers of words read is calculated for each minute timed