**English language key terms**

These are a few key terms used in English language

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| **Key term** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Simile | Comparing something using like or as | As light as a feather |
| Metaphor | Saying something is something else | The snow is a white blanket |
| Alliteration | When the first letters of a word are repeated several times | Alex always alliterates |
| Personification | Giving objects human qualities | The wind howled in the night |
| assonance | Repeating vowel sounds or similar syllables in the same sentence | She sells sea shells by the sea shore |
| Anecdote | A short story from personal experience | Last night the craziest thing happened to me… etc. |
| Onomatopoeia | Words that sound or read like what they are | Bang, clap, boom |
| Sibilance | A repeated s sound, this is often at the start of the word but can be in the middle too | Slimy snakes slither slowly south |
| Irony | Something that usually means the opposite | they know everything (they probably don’t know much) |
| Oxymoron | Opposite and contradicting words used together | Deafening silence, sweet sorrow, love hate |
| Juxtaposition | Two or more things close to each other with contrasting ideas | Comparing things such as size, appearance, colours |
| ambiguity | Something that has an unclear meaning | Luke walked his dog wearing a red hat, was Luke wearing the hat or the dog? |
| Incongruent | When things don’t add up and don’t make sense | They are extremely wealthy but wear torn up clothes |
| Hypernym | A word with a broad meaning often representing a category into which more specific words fall | Furniture is a hypernym for chair, table, bed |
| Hyperbole | This is exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech | My parents would kill me if they found out |

Key terms for writing and language in general

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| **Key term** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Idiom | Commonly used phrases and metaphors | Its raining cats and dogs |
| Sensory detail | Details about the senses | What it smelled like what they could see and hear |
| Emotive language | Powerful adjectives and phrases that evoke emotions | The scene was terrifying, damaging and cruel |
| Allegory | A type of writing which has a hidden meaning or a “bigger picture” | A story about two people fighting could have a deeper meaning of war |
| Double entendre | Words or phrases that have two meanings | Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again |
| Evocative verbs | A doing word which sounds active | The man darted across the room |
| Allusion | Referencing things in real life such as people, places, works of art, literary work etc. | She sat down and read Romeo and Juliet |

Poetry key terms and definitions

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| **Key term** | **definition** |
| Anaphora | Repetition in the first line of a poem |
| Minor sentence | A really short sentence |
| Repetition | When words or phrases are repeated |
| Rhyme | Words that sound the same like nail and tail |
| Half rhyme | when words sound similar but don’t fully rhyme like spine and lime |
| Stanza | A grouped set of lines within the poem |
| Syntactic parallelism | Repetition of sentence structure |