**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  |