

Achievement Indicators Glossary

Abbreviations: The shortened form of a word or phrase that has come to be used in place of the whole word

Abstract: Considered apart from any particular object or real thing; not concrete

Active listening: Intentionally focusing on a speaker to understand what he or she is saying

Assonance: The repetition in words of identical or similar vowel sounds followed by different vowel sounds (e.g., as /a/ in the mad hatter)

Author's argument: The stance an author may take when writing text in order to influence the reader

Author's perspective: An author's biased view that may be influenced by his/her culture or beliefs

Author's viewpoint: (point of view) The way an author chooses to tell or narrate a passage. (e.g., through characters, events, or ideas)

Background knowledge: Knowledge that stems from prior experience or reading; building background knowledge is an important pre-reading strategy

Bias: A particular tendency or inclination

Blank verse: Unrhymed poetry with lines of ten syllables, with an unstressed followed by a stressed syllable

Blending: Combining sounds or word parts

Book orientation: Building book awareness (e.g., a book has a cover, a title, contains a story or facts, and the print is written left to right)

Brainstorming: Activity intended to expand the range of available ideas (e.g., webbing, listing mapping)

Cause and effect: A stated or implied association between an outcome and the conditions that brought it about

Character: A person, animal, or inanimate object represented in or acting in a story, drama, etc.

Compare/comparison: To find out or point out how persons or things are alike and how they are different

Comprehension: A process in which the reader constructs meaning interacting with text

Concept of print: Knowledge of print within a text and understanding that it represents words and sounds

Concept of word (oral): The ability to hear separate words; understanding that words are groups of sounds that combined together represent words

Concept of word (written): The ability to identify groups of letters combined together to form words, separated by spaces, and point out each word as it is read by a teacher or student

Concrete: Existing as an actual object, not merely as an idea or as a quality; real

Counter-argument: A response providing a conflicting view

Cultural context: Text written within the influence of a certain community, group, or culture

Cultural viewpoint: Text written using a perspective influenced by a culture through its characters, events, or ideas

Delivery: Vocal and bodily behavior during the presentation of a speech (e.g., volume, eye contact, gestures)

Diamonte: A form poem which develops a portrait of a subject, physically shaped as a diamond, and beginning and ending with the subject

Directionality: The orientation of print (in the English language) from left to right

Editorial: Personal, subjective observation or response

End rhyme: The rhyming of ends of lines of verse, the most typical place for rhyme in English verse

Exaggeration: Making something sound more important than it is

Expression: Modulation and pacing in reading and/or speech to convey meaning

Free verse: Poetry with irregular line length

Genre: A category of written text that is characterized by a particular style, form, or content

Haiku: A Japanese poem of seventeen syllables (one line of five syllables, one of seven, and another one of five), expressing a vivid impression

Inflection: A change in the tone or pitch of a voice

Inversion: Reversal of the main elements of a sentence (e.g., placing the verb before the subject)

Isolating: Separating from others

Jargon: A specialized vocabulary of a social or occupational group, often including the use of stock phrases

Kinesthetic: Sensory experience from bodily movements

Literary elements: Components within text (e.g., character, setting, plot, imagery, point of view)

Lyrical: Expression of thoughts and feelings using emotional language

Main idea: The gist of a passage; central thought

Media aids: Resources used during a presentation that are a means of communication (e.g., as music, video, newspapers, magazines, PowerPoint)

Message: A communication containing some information, news, advice, request, or the like, sent by messenger, radio, telephone, or other means

Meter: Line length; the rhythmical pattern in verse, made up of stressed and unstressed syllables

Motivation: Encouragement, both intrinsic and extrinsic, when working towards a goal; or reasons for actions as in a character in literature

Onomatopoeia: The use of words the sound of which suggests their meaning (e.g., buzz, purr)

Onset: In a syllable, the part (e.g., consonant, consonant cluster, or consonant digraph) that comes before the vowel (cr-eam) (b-oy)

Oral communication: The imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech

Parallelism: All elements of a series must be the same type; the phrasing of language so as to balance ideas of equal importance; parallel construction

Persuasive techniques: Techniques intended to persuade (e.g., personal appeal, bandwagon, testimonial, hyperbole)

Phoneme: Phonemes are the smallest units of sound in spoken language

Pre-reading strategies → before reading strategies: Reading strategies that provide students with an opportunity to predict, infer, or make connections in preparation for reading

Preview text: The act of skimming text features prior to reading in order to build understanding before reading

Prewriting: The initial creative stage of writing, prior to drafting, in which the writer forms ideas, gathers information, and considers ways to organize them

Prewriting strategies: Any activity e.g., clustering, mapping, outlining, used to help a writer begin arranging ideas

Public speaking techniques: Techniques used when delivering speeches in public (e.g., eye contact, posture, pace)

Quote: A line or group of lines excerpted from text

Reversal: Stating the opposite of a previously assumed position

Revision strategies: Activities or tools used by writers to identify weaknesses in drafts and seek improvement

Rubric: An instructor provided chart which establishes the criteria expected in a written assignment

Sarcasm: A cutting, mean-spirited remark or observation

Satire: The use of criticism or scorn, often in a humorous way, to expose faults and vices

Segmenting: To divide into parts
Sentence structure: The grammatical arrangement of a sentence

Short vowel: The sound qualities of /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, and /u/ as heard in the words bat, bed, bit, bob, and bug

Long vowel: The stressed vowel sounds that are also the names of the letters /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, and /u/ as heard in bake, beat, bike, bone, and cube

Spelling patterns: Beginning letters (onsets) and common phonograms (rimes) form the basis for the English syllable

Stanza: A group of lines in a poem or a song with an identifiable pattern of meter and often rhyme

Subplot: A minor plot that is part of a more complex plot within a text

Supporting characters: Characters in literature created to further develop the story through interaction with main characters

Syllable awareness: Understanding that a word consists of separate parts of sound

Symbols: Nonlinguistic representations for ideas or text

Substituting: Replacing one letter for another in order to form a new word (e.g., phonemic awareness assessment)

Tempo: Rhythmic rate

Text box: In nonfiction text, a text box is used to provide specific information relating to a graph, picture, map, or other text feature

Text layout: The organizational and sometimes creative format in which text is placed

Text to self: Connections between a text and a personal experience or feeling

Text to text: Making connections between two texts

Text to world: Making connections between a text and an outside source (e.g., movie, news event, etc)

Understatement: Making something sound less important than it is (underplaying the significance)

Value: The worth of something in terms of the amount of other things for which it can be exchanged or in terms of some medium of exchange

Verse: A line of poetry; a group of lines in a song

Viewpoint: A position or perspective from which something is considered or evaluated

Vowel patterns: Combinations of vowels to produce other vowel sounds and spelling patterns (e.g., CVC, CVVC, and CVCe)

Word choice: The selection of effective and appropriate vocabulary to enhance a writing piece