**AP Literature Terms 61-80**

**61. synecdoche–** a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to represent the whole or, occasionally, the whole is used to represent a part.

\*\*Different than *metonymy*, in which one thing is represented by another thing that is

commonly physically associated with it (but is not necessarily a *part* of it), i.e., referring to a monarch as “the crown” orthe President as “The White House.”

**62. synesthesia –** when one kind of sensory stimulus evokes the subjective experience of another. Ex: The sight of red ants makes you itchy. In literature, *synesthesia* refers to the practice of associating two or more different senses in the same image.

**63. syntax –** The way an author chooses to join words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. Syntax is similar to diction, but you can differentiate them by thinking of syntax as groups of words, while diction refers to the individual words. In the multiple choice section of the AP exam, expect to be asked some questions about how an author manipulates syntax. In the essay section, you will need to analyze how syntax produces effects.

**64. theme –** The central idea or message of a work, the insight it offers into life. Usually theme is unstated in fictional works, but in nonfiction, the theme may be directly state, especially in expository or argumentative writing.

**65. thesis –** In expository writing, the thesis statement is the sentence or group of sentences that directly expresses the author’s opinion, purpose, meaning, or position. Expository writing is usually judged by analyzing how accurately, effectively, and thoroughly a writer has proven the thesis.

**66. tone –** Similar to mood, tone describes the author’s attitude toward his material, the audience, or both. Tone is easier to determine in spoken language than in written language. Considering how a work would sound if it were read aloud can help in identifying an author’s tone. Some words describing tone are *playful, serious, businesslike, sarcastic, humorous, formal,* *ornate, sardonic, somber*, etc.

**67. transition –** A word or phrase that links different ideas. Used especially, although not exclusively, in expository and argumentative writing, transitions effectively signal a shift from one idea to another. A few commonly used transitional words or phrases are *furthermore, consequently, nevertheless, for example, in addition, likewise, similarly, on the* *contrary*, etc. More sophisticated writers use more subtle means of transition.

**68. understatement –** the ironic minimalizing of fact, understatement presents something as less significant than it is. The effect can frequently be humorous and emphatic. Understatement is the opposite of *hyperbole*.

**69. wit --** in modern usage, intellectually amusing language that surprises and delights. A witty statement is humorous, while suggesting the speaker’s verbal power in creating ingenious and perceptive remarks. Wit usually uses terse language that makes a pointed statement. Historically, wit originally meant basic understanding. Its meaning evolved to include speed of understanding, and finally, it grew to mean quick perception including creative fancy and a quick tongue to articulate an answer that demanded the same quick perception.

**70. Anadiplosis -** The repetition of the last word of a preceding clause

**71. Anecdote -** a short account of a particular incident or event, especially of an interesting or amusing nature

**72. Anthimeria** - One part of speech substituting for another (i.e. a noun substituting for a verb)

**73. Antimetabol**e **-** The repetition of words in successive clauses in reverse grammatical order

**74. Chiasmus** - Also called "reverse parallelism," since the second part of a grammatical construction is balanced or paralleled by the first part, only in reverse order. Instead of an A,B structure paralleled by another A,B structure, the A,B will be followed by B,A.

**75. Cliché -** An expression, idea, or element of an artistic work which has been overused to the point of losing its original meaning or effect, rendering it a stereotype.

**76. Dysphemism -**  The substitution of a more offensive or disparaging word or phrase for one considered less offensive. The opposite of euphemism

**77. Epistrophe -** A figure of speech and the counterpart of anaphora. It is the repetition of the same word or words at the end of successive phrases, clauses or sentences

**78. Epithet -** A rhetorical term for an adjective (or adjective phrase) used to characterize a person or thing

**79. Inverted Syntax -** A sentence in which the subject does not start the sentence.

**80. Jargon -** The language, especially the vocabulary, peculiar to a particular trade, profession, or group.