Short Fiction II

AP English Literature and Composition · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
agency /ˈeɪdʒənsi/	The heroine finally gains **agency**: she makes her own choices.
nuanced	A **nuanced** reading sees both good and bad in the character.
protagonist /prəʊˈtægənɪst/	The **protagonist** is the main character.
antagonist /ænˈtægənɪst/	The **antagonist** works against the main character.
villain	The **villain** of the story is a greedy king.
value system	Each family has its own **value system**: its ideas of right and wrong.
mood /muːd/	The dark forest creates a frightening **mood**.
atmosphere /ˈætməsfɪə/	The empty house has a lonely **atmosphere**.
archetype	The wise old teacher is a common **archetype**.
trait /treɪt/	Kindness is her most important **trait**.
narrative distance /ˈnærətɪv ˈdɪstəns/	**Narrative distance** is how close the narrator feels to the characters.
stream of consciousness /striːm ɒv ˈkɒnʃəsnəs/	**Stream of consciousness** shows a character's thoughts as they flow.
irony /ˈaɪrəni/	It is **irony** when a fire station burns down.

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unreliability	The narrator's **unreliability** makes us doubt his story.
diction /ˈdɪkʃn/	Choose exact **diction**, not exaggerated words.
attitude /ˈætɪtjuːd/	The writer's **attitude** is how they feel about the topic.
body paragraph	Each **body paragraph** develops one main point.
cohesive	A **cohesive** essay holds together as one whole.
topic sentence /ˈtɒpɪk ˈsentəns/	The **topic sentence** gives the main idea of the paragraph.
coherence /kəʊˈhɪərəns/	**Coherence** means each idea leads clearly to the next.
flashback /ˈflæʃbæk/	A **flashback** shows events from the past.
foreshadowing /fɔːˈʃædəʊɪŋ/	The black clouds are **foreshadowing**: they hint at trouble later.
in medias res /ɪn ˈmiːdiːəz reɪz/	The story begins **in medias res**, in the middle of the action.

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