Longer Fiction or Drama II

AP English Literature and Composition · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
narrator reliability	**Narrator reliability** asks whether we can trust the narrator.
foil character	A **foil character** has the opposite traits to the main character.
complexity /kəm'pleksɪti/	A good essay shows the **complexity** of the issue.
chronology /krə'nɒlədʒi/	The story's **chronology** jumps back and forth in time.
flashback /'flæʃbæk/	A **flashback** shows events from the past.
foreshadowing /fɔː'ʃædəʊɪŋ/	The black clouds are **foreshadowing**: they hint at trouble later.
in medias res /ɪn 'miːdiːəz reɪz/	The story begins **in medias res**, in the middle of the action.
suspense	**Suspense** makes the reader want to know what happens next.
retrospect	In **retrospect**, the narrator sees his mistakes clearly.
contradiction /ˌkɒntrə'dɪkʃn/	The two dates are a **contradiction**: they cannot both be true.
nuance	Pay attention to each **nuance**, the small differences in meaning.
ambiguity /ˌæmbɪ'gjuːɪti/	**Ambiguity** lets a line have more than one meaning.
symbol /'sɪmbl/	The green light is a **symbol** of hope.

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symbolic /sɪm'bɒlɪk/	The empty chair is **symbolic** of loss.
conventional symbol	A rose is a **conventional symbol** of love.
punctuation /ˌpʌŋktʃuː'eɪʃn/	Commas and full stops are **punctuation**.
unreliable narrator	An **unreliable narrator** may lie or misunderstand events.