Paper 2 · comparing literary works

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Language A: Literature · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
comparative essay	A **comparative essay** develops an argument about two works.
context /ˈkɒntekst/	Use the **context**, the words around a word, to guess its meaning.
tragic hero	A **tragic hero** falls through an error or weakness.
hamartia	The hero's destructive ambition acts as **hamartia**.
dramatic irony	**Dramatic irony** lets the audience know more than the character.
soliloquy	In a **soliloquy**, a character speaks their thoughts alone on stage.
foreshadowing /fɔːˈʃædəʊɪŋ/	The black clouds are **foreshadowing**: they hint at trouble later.
catharsis /kæˈθɑːsɪs/	A tragedy may bring **catharsis** through pity and fear.
investigation /ɪnˌvestɪˈgeɪʃn/	The king's **investigation** gradually reveals his own role in the crime.

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