**Literary Terms – Dictionary**

Diana F.

LAM, Lipova, Romania

allegory=a story, play, poem, picture, or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion, or politics;

allusion=something that is said or written that is intended to make you think of a particular thing or person;

ambiguity=the fact of something having more than one possible meaning and therefore possibly causing confusion;

anachronism=a person, thing, or idea that exists out of its time in history, especially one that happened or existed later than the period being shown, discussed;

analogy=a comparison between things that have similar features, often used to help explain a principle or idea;

autobiography=a book about a person's life, written by that person;

characterization=the way that people are represented in a film, play, or book so that they seem real and natural;

cliffhanger=a story or a situation that is exciting because its ending or result is uncertain until it happens;

coherence=the situation when the parts of something fit together in a natural or reasonable way;

denotation=the main meaning of a word, not including the feelings or ideas that people may connect with the word;

dramatic irony=the situation in which the audience of a play knows something that the characters do not know;

elegy=a sad poem or song, especially remembering someone who has died or something in the past;

epilogue=a speech or piece of text that is added to the end of a play or book, often giving a short statement about what happens to the characters after the play or book finishes;

equivocation=a way of speaking that is intentionally not clear and is confusing to other people, especially to hide the truth, or something said in this way;

figure of speech=an expression that uses words to mean something different from their ordinary meaning;

foreshadowing=the use of details, description, and mood that will take on more meaning later in a written work;

jargon=special words and phrases that are used by particular groups of people, especially in their work;

melodrama=a story, play, or film in which the characters show stronger emotions than real people usually do;

monologue=a long speech by one person;

narrative=a story or a description of a series of events;

paradox=a situation or statement that seems impossible or is difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics;

persona=the particular type of character that a person seems to have and that is often different from their real or private character;

plot=the story of a book, film, play, etc.;

premise=an idea or theory on which a statement or action is based;

protagonist=an important character in a story or play;

pseudonym=a name someone uses instead of their real name, especially on a written work;

quest=a long search for something that is difficult to find, or an attempt to achieve something difficult;

sardonic=humorous in an unkind way that shows you do not respect someone or something;

Science Fiction=books, films, or cartoons about an imagined future, especially about space travel or other planets;

stanza=a group of lines of poetry forming a unit;

subtext=a hidden or less obvious meaning;

theme=the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc.;

thriller=a book, play, or film that has an exciting story, often about solving a crime;

tragedy=a play about death or suffering with a sad end, or this type of play generally;

utopia=a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy;

villain=a character in a book, play, film, etc. who harms other people.