AQA English Literature GCSE

The Sign of Four - Key Terms

Flashcards

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What is an allegory?

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What is an allegory?

A story, character, setting or object which alludes to wider moral, social or political messages.

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What is an allusion?

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What is an allusion?

An indirect reference to a concept or theme without explicit mention.

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What is antithesis?

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What is antithesis?

A rhetorical device where contrasting concepts are placed together in a text, typically a sentence, to highlight how opposite they are.

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What is alliteration?

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What is alliteration?

The repetition of the same consonant sounds at the start of words, often creating a staccato rhythm.

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What is anaphora?

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What is anaphora?

Repeating a word or phrase at the start of successive clauses.

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What does connotation mean?

CC BY NC ND

What does connotation mean?

Using text to create implied meaning without explicitly referring to said meaning.

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What does consonance mean?

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What does consonance mean?

The repetition of consonant sounds anywhere within words close to each other in a sentence, often creating a harsh sound.

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What is hyperbole?

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What is hyperbole?

Use of exaggerated statements.

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What is a semantic field?

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What is a semantic field?

Words which are linked by a theme or topic.

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What is pathetic fallacy?

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What is pathetic fallacy?

A form of personification; attributing human qualities to nonhuman things.

CC BY NC ND

What is metonymy?

CC BY NC ND

What is metonymy?

A figure of speech used to refer to an object, concept or person.

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What is foreshadowing?

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What is foreshadowing?

An indication that an event will occur later in the narrative.

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What is symbolism?

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What is symbolism?

Using one object or character to represent a wider concept running throughout the novel.

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What does epitome mean?

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What does epitome mean?

The perfect or ultimate embodiment of a quality.

CC BY NC ND

What is irony?

CC BY NC ND

What is irony?

Embedding a meaning by using language typically implying the opposite of what the writer is intending to express, often for a humorous effect.

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What is satire?

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What is satire?

Criticising people through the use of humour or irony.

What is sibilance?

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What is sibilance?

Repetition of “s” sounds.

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What is juxtaposition?

CC BY NC ND

What is juxtaposition?

Comparing two concepts, characters, or clauses, in close proximity in the passage for the effect of contrast.

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What is foreboding?

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What is foreboding?

Apprehension that a bad event will occur.

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What is tricolon?

CC BY NC ND

What is tricolon?

Three parallel phrases or words that are placed in succession within a text, without interruption.

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What is auditory imagery?

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What is auditory imagery?

A type of sensory imagery; language which appeals to the reader's hearing.

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What is an oxymoron?

CC BY NC ND

What is an oxymoron?

Two opposing terms are placed next to each other.

CC BY NC ND

What is alliteration?

CC BY NC ND

What is alliteration?

Repetition of the same sound, usually letter, in close succession.

CC BY NC ND

What is an archetype?

CC BY NC ND

What is an archetype?

A common character type who possesses traits typical of their role.

CC BY NC ND

What is assonance?

CC BY NC ND

What is assonance?

The repetition of vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) within words close to each other, often creating emphasis or musicality.

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What is a colloquialism?

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What is a colloquialism?

An informal phrase common at its time of utterance.

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What is parallelism?

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What is parallelism?

The use of grammatically identical or similar components repeated in a sentence or multiple sentences.

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What is dichotomy?

CC BY NC ND

What is dichotomy?

Contrast of two beings that are opposed or distinctly different.

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What is a novella?

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What is a novella?

A short novel, roughly 20,000 - 40,000 words.

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What is a foil?

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What is a foil?

A character who serves to contrast and emphasise certain characteristics of another character.

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What does fin de siècle mean?

CC BY NC ND

What does fin de siècle mean?

The end of a century.

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What is a conventional detective novel?

CC BY NC ND

What is a conventional detective novel?

A subgenre of mystery & crime fiction, typically featuring a hero who is the investigator of the case and who eventually uncovers the truth.

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What is the exposition of the novella?

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What is an expository tool?

The beginning of a text. It provides all the background information required to understand the forthcoming plot and the characters involved.

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What is terror?

CC BY NC ND

What is terror?

A feeling of anticipation and dread observed before an experience which induces horror.

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What is morality?

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What is morality?

Awareness of the principles of right and wrong conduct.

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What is duality?

CC BY NC ND

What is duality?

Simultaneously displaying two halves, with the two halves often being opposite meanings.

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What does it mean if someone is duplicitous?

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What does it mean if someone is duplicitous?

They are in the state of being deceitful.

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What is moral myopia?

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What is moral myopia?

Being unable to see ethical issues clearly.

CC BY NC ND

What does it mean to be multifaceted?

CC BY NC ND

What does it mean to be multifaceted?

To have many outlets.

CC BY NC ND

What is Darwinism?

CC BY NC ND

What is Darwinism?

The theory of evolution of species.

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What is a Victorian gentleman?

CC BY NC ND

What is a Victorian gentleman?

A man in Victorian society who was expected to have immaculate manners. Gentlemen often had respectable occupations such as a lawyer.

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Who is a contemporary reader?

CC BY NC ND

Who is a contemporary reader?

Someone reading the book at the time it was published.

CC BY NC ND

What is catharsis?

CC BY NC ND

What is catharsis?

Relief derived from releasing repressed emotion.

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What is gothic convention?

CC BY NC ND

What is gothic convention?

Stylistic characteristics of some texts, such as horror, terror, and the supernatural, which places it in the gothic genre.

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What are idiosyncrasies?

CC BY NC ND

What are idiosyncrasies?

Behaviours of an individual which are peculiar.

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What is hedonism?

CC BY NC ND

What is hedonism?

A self-indulgent life, which is dedicated to seeking pleasure.

CC BY NC ND

What is physiognomy?

CC BY NC ND

What is physiognomy?

The practice of using an individual's facial expression or characteristics as indicative of their character.

CC BY NC ND

What is atavism?

CC BY NC ND

What is atavism?

Reverting to something primitive.

CC BY NC ND

What is a nonlinear narrative form?

CC BY NC ND

What is a nonlinear narrative form?

The events are depicted in a non-chronological order.

CC BY NC ND

What is a round character?

CC BY NC ND

What is a round character?

A complex character.

CC BY NC ND

What is temporal deixis?

CC BY NC ND

What is temporal deixis?

Language which references time.

CC BY NC ND

What does syntactic mean?

CC BY NC ND

What does syntactic mean?

Relating to the arrangement of words within a sentence within a text.

CC BY NC ND

What does imperialism mean?

CC BY NC ND

What does imperialism mean?

The act of extending a nation's power, often through acquiring territories (colonialism).

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What does nouveau riche mean?

CC BY NC ND

What does nouveau riche mean?

A French term meaning “new rich”. It refers to people who have acquired wealth in their lifetime as opposed to being born into it.

CC BY NC ND

What is orientalism?

CC BY NC ND

What is orientalism?

The portrayal of Eastern cultures as exotic and mysterious and the West as superior.

CC BY NC ND

What is social mobility?

CC BY NC ND

What is social mobility?

The movement between different social classes.

CC BY NC ND

What is the “other”?

CC BY NC ND

What is the “other”?

The portrayal of Eastern cultures as exotic and mysterious and the West as superior.

CC BY NC ND

What is empire?

CC BY NC ND

What is empire?

The group of territories controlled by another country.

CC BY NC ND

What is a facade?

CC BY NC ND

What is a facade?

An exterior pretense.

CC BY NC ND

What is a binary?

CC BY NC ND

What is a binary?

Something which consists of two parts.

CC BY NC ND

What is a gallicism?

CC BY NC ND

What is a gallicism?

The use of a French phrase, often to indicate education and sophistication.

CC BY NC ND

What is olfactory imagery?

CC BY NC ND

What is olfactory imagery?

Imagery which appeals to the reader's sense of smell.

CC BY NC ND

What is a motif?

CC BY NC ND

What is a motif?

A recurring image, idea or symbol throughout the novella.

CC BY NC ND