GLOSSARY OF LITERACY TERMS

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absolute adjective	adjective that does not have a comparative or superlative degree eg *empty, full, dead, correct, straight, perfect*
absorbed/assimilated prefixes	spelling and sound of the consonant in a prefix has been absorbed into the spelling and sound at the beginning of the base to which the prefix is affixed eg *ad + tract = attraction*
abstract	move away from concrete meaning; a feature of written texts; in narrative writing taking the form of analogy used to explore the human condition, in factual and analytical writing taking the form of grammatical metaphor and nominalisation
abstract noun	names complex qualities, thoughts and feelings eg *love, greed, happiness, height, heat;* nominalised form; Noun-forming suffixes:

- *~dom*   *freedom, boredom, martyrdom, serfdom, kingdom*
- *~hood*   *brotherhood, childhood, manhood, motherhood, neighbourhood*
- *~ism*   *classicism, chauvinism, communism, mannerism, socialism*
- *~ship*   *fellowship, salesmanship, scholarship, oneupmanship*
- *~ity*   *familiarity, liberality, maturity, morality, solidarity*
- *~ness*   *dullness, eagerness, rudeness, sweetness, ugliness*
- *~ance*   *deliverance, endurance, ignorance, perseverance*
- *~ence*   *concurrence, convergence, precedence, transference*
- *~ion*   *abstraction, constitution, condensation, toleration*
- *~ment*   *agreement, derangement, resentment*

accented syllables	those syllables in words that are emphasised more than others
active voice	refers to the verb group, where the subject of the clause or actor is foregrounded; in the active voice, the subject is the doer and is in the theme position; doer done to eg *The children washed the windows. The dog bit the child.*
actor	who does the deed or performs the task, participant category in functional grammar
acronym	word made up of the first letter of each word forming the name eg *ANZAC Australian and New Zealand Army Corps*
adjectival	adjective or adjectival phrase describing the noun
adjectival clause	clause that adds meaning or qualifies the noun eg *This is the cat that killed the rat.*
adjectival phrase	a group of words without a finite verb adding meaning to, describing or modifying a noun or pronoun, can begin with a:

- preposition eg *She is the girl in the blue dress.*
- present participle eg *The children, wearing their hats, played in the sun.*
- past participle eg *I felt sorry for the boys locked in the lavatory.*
- infinitive eg *She got the message to be quiet.*

adjective	part of speech that qualifies or describes what is named by a noun or pronoun eg *a black cat.*

- descriptive adjectives tell about the quality of a person or thing eg *big, happy*
- possessive adjectives (pronoun or pronominal adjectives) show possession eg *my book*
- numeral adjectives describe the number or numerical order of things eg *ten, fifth*
- demonstrative adjectives demonstrate or point out eg *this, that, these, those*
- distributive adjectives point to separate things eg *each, every, either, neither*
- interrogative adjectives ask questions eg *which, what, whose*
- modal adjectives are describing words that show amounts of probability or certainty eg *possible, definite*
- indefinite adjectives refer to number but do not give the exact number eg *some, few*

adjective degree   tells how much more or less; can be formed using ~er and ~est endings or by using the adverbs more or most; absolute adjectives do not have a comparative or superlative degree eg *empty, full, dead, correct, straight, perfect*

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful

adjective order   basic adjective movement is from subjective (opinion) to objective (fact); Order of adjectives:

Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose	+ Noun
good bad terrible	huge tiny vast	young elderly ancient	round square circular	black white transparent	Spanish Japanese British	leather plastic metal	riding sleeping hunting	boots bag rifle

Pre-mo difying structu res of a Noun Group *(Dr Lenore Fergus on)*									
Determi ners	Adjectiv es	Head Word							
Article	Pointing Word	Possessive Pronoun	Quantity Adjective	Opinion Adjective	Factual Adjective	Comparing Adjective	Classifying Adjective	Noun or Pronoun
a *some*	*this* *that*	*my* *her*	*three* *a kilo*	*superb* *easy*	*red* *circular*	*best* *rougher*	*glass* *Australian*	*Slipper* *Team*

the	*these* *those*	*their* *our*	*first*	*unruly*	*tall* *hard*	*more* *robust*	*Holden*	*Car* *Sam*
Which?	Which?	Whose?	How many? How much?	Perceived qualities?	Observed qualities?	Degree of similarity?	What type?	Who, whom or what?

adjunct circumstantial element of the clause
- comment adjuncts function to express some degree of modality about the whole clause eg *Unfortunately, I missed the last bus.*
- mood adjuncts function in the mood block to express some degree of modality eg *I really want to see you. It's probably him. I never do that.*

adverb part of speech that usually modifies or describes a verb, but may also modify an adjective or another adverb
- manner eg *He behaved sensibly.*
- time eg *Finish it now!*
- place eg *I ran there.*
- degree eg *It is quite clear that he has worked too hard.*
- reason eg *He was therefore disqualified.*
- numerical eg *He called her twice.*
- interrogative eg *How are you?*
- assertion eg *No, you cannot go.*
- interpolation eg *We refused to pay the price, however, and went elsewhere.*
- modal eg *It will probably rain.*

adverbial adverb or adverbial phrase describing the verb, can contain modals; circumstances eg *quickly*, *very quickly*, and *really very quickly*

adverbial clause clause that describes a verb eg *The volcano erupted because of movement in the tectonic plates.*

aesthetic relating to artistic as opposed to practical or everyday uses of language

affect one of the three sub-systems of evaluative vocabulary or attitude (affect, judgement and appreciation); the system of words and phrases expressing feelings and emotions eg *happiness, unhappiness, security, insecurity, satisfaction, dissatisfaction*

affix meaningful segment added to the beginning (prefix) or the end (suffix) of base words

affricative composite speech sound beginning with a stop and ending with a fricative
- not voiced – *ch (chop)*
- voiced – *j (joke), g (giant, gem, gypsies, ledge)*

agent the actor; one of the possible roles of a participant; the initiator of the process; the 'doer' of an action

agreement concord, describes the relationship between two words or elements of the language where the form of one determines the form of another, varies with different languages
- subject-verb (finite) agreement in tense and number eg *The dogs are barking.*
- existential clause agreement, where the first element in the participant

immediately following the process eg *There is a table and two chairs in that room. There are two chairs and a table in that room*

- subject-pronoun agreement, used in more contemporary and colloquial texts to avoid the his/her construction eg *a student and their schoolbag*

allomorph alternative manifestation of a morpheme varying in shape or pronunciation according to their conditions of use, but not as to meaning eg in <u>in</u>capable, <u>il</u>logical, *im*probable*,* <u>ir</u>reverent

alphabetic principle phonological principle; letter-sound correspondence; written language using letters of an alphabet (symbols) to represent segments of sound (phonemes); English has 26 letters of the alphabet and approximately 44 phonemes

alphabetic spelling letter name stage of spelling development

allegory figurative mode of representation conveying a meaning other than and in addition to the literal, a comparision that appeals to the imagination, does not have to be expressed in language eg *Melancholia I (Albrecht Dürer), Aesops's Fables*

alliteration repetition of a sound, usually a consonant and often at the beginning of words; used by advertisers, newspaper editors and poets eg tongue twister *Which witch wished one wicked wish? Round the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.*

allusion figure of speech that refers to a related object or circumstance that has occurred or existed in an external context, understandable only to those with prior knowledge eg *It was a Pearl Harbour sneak attack.*

alternation sound changes that occur across words that are related in spelling and meaning
Consonant Alternation
- silent to sounded eg *sign/signal, soft/soften*
- predictable changes in consonants eg *explode/explosion, decide/decision*
Vowel Alternation
- adding ity eg *general/generality*
- long a to short a eg *nature/natural*
- long I to short I eg *crime/criminal*
- long e to short e eg *please/pleasant/pleasure*

ambiguous vowels neither long nor short vowels, the same pattern may represent different sounds, ambiguous in the context of syllable stress eg *v<u>oy</u>age, am<u>ou</u>nt*

ampersand &

anagram a word or phrase whose letters can be rearranged to form other words eg *notes⬚ stone.*

analogy comparison, similarity, metaphor, likeness in two things that are different in other ways, assists description and adds to the complexity of texts; all figures of speech are based on analogy eg *a sock is to the foot as a glove is to the hand* ; in spelling describes a similarity between words eg *same/game, geography/geophysics*

analysis identifying the types of clauses and their relationships; traditional grammar 'exercises in parsing and analysis'

anaphoric reference cohesive device; substitution; preceding; the meaning of the reference item is understood by going back in the wordings of the text eg *<u>Joan</u> said that <u>she</u>'d like to do the shopping*.