Junior English

Explication Practice

An explication is a very close and specific examination of a short passage in a text. As you study the short passage, the meaning of the larger work should become clearer and more fully understood.

**Literary Terms**

Allusion(s): A casual reference to a person, place, event, or a passage of literature, often without explicit identification

Context: Anything beyond the specific words of a text that might be helpful to understand the meaning. What is happening in the story? When is the action occurring?

Diction: The choice of specific words

Hyperbole: An exaggeration or overstatement

Imagery: An expression that describes a literal sensation, whether of hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, or feeling; a verbal expression of a sensory experience

Metaphor: A direct comparison of two unlike things

Mood: A feeling or emotional state in a piece of literature

Paradox: A statement that seems to contradict itself but is really true

Personification: Giving human qualities to animals or objects

Point of View: Perspective from which the story is told

Setting: Location and time period in which the action in a work occurs

Simile: A comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as”

Symbol: A word, place, character, or object that means something beyond what it is on a literal level

Syntax: Arrangement of words to create meaning

Theme: A central idea that unifies a work

Tone: The writer’s attitude toward the subject or readers. For example a tone may be abrasive, complimentary, playful, serious, etc.

*Work Consulted*

Wheeler, Kip. “Literary Terms and Definitions.” *Dr. Wheeler’s Website.* 2013. Web. 14 Feb. 2013.