

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Resources for English Language Learners

Grade 8

Vocabulary Cards



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VOCABULARY CARD: allusion



*He takes soccer more seriously than Lionel Messi. This is an **allusion** to a famous soccer player.*

Word and Definition

allusion

noun

a literary device in which the author makes a brief reference to something of historical, cultural, or literary significance

Other Words for Allusion

reference

mention

figure of speech

Allusions are brief references to historical events, political figures, literature, sports figures, or pop culture in literature.

Go ahead. Ask me anything. I'm like Google over here. This is an **allusion** to Google, a popular search engine.

That boy is a regular Romeo with the girls. This is an **allusion** to *Romeo and Juliet*, a play about a romance between a young couple.

VOCABULARY CARD: autobiography



Reading an **autobiography**, such as *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*, is a good way to learn about historical figures.

Word and Definition

autobiography

noun

an account written by a person about their life

Other Words for Autobiography

life story

memoir

personal history

autobiografia

An **autobiography** is an account written by a person about their own life.

An **autobiography** is written by the person the book is about.

The meaning of the parts of the word **autobiography** gives you the meaning of the whole word.

word part	auto	bio	graphy
meaning	self	life	writing

VOCABULARY CARD: characterization



Shakespeare's characterization of Julius Caesar focuses on Caesar's heroic but flawed character.

Word and Definition

characterization

noun

how the author presents and develops a character's traits

Characterization is how an author creates and describes characters.

Characterization includes what characters say, think, and do.

Characterization can be direct or indirect.

Types of Characterization	
direct	indirect
The author directly tells the reader about the character's traits.	The author shows the reader the character's traits through their actions, thoughts, and interactions with others.

VOCABULARY CARD: claim



The protesters' **claim** was that students sixteen years of age and older should be able to vote.

Word and Definition

claim

noun

an arguable stance or position on a topic

Other Words for Claim

argument

assertion

statement

A **claim** is a statement that the author believes is true.

For example, a **claim** may be that students should not have to wear uniforms to school.

Claims are supported by reasons and evidence.

VOCABULARY CARD: conflict



In a book, **conflict** can be between a character and nature, such as with Dorothy and the tornado in the book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Word and Definition

conflict

noun

a struggle between characters or a problem characters are trying to overcome;

opposing actions between people or forces

Other Words for Conflict

argument *argumento*

disagreement *conflicto*

fight

struggle

Conflict is a struggle between characters or a problem that the characters are trying to overcome.

There are four types of **conflict**.

Types of Conflict	
External (outside the character)	Internal (inside the character)
Character and Character —when two characters disagree	Self —what a character thinks and feels at different times may be contradictory
Character and Society —when a character disagrees with the rules of society	
Character and Nature —when a character has problems with the natural world, such as weather	

VOCABULARY CARD: figurative language



This backpack weighs a ton! This is an example of hyperbole, which is a type of **figurative language**. The backpack does not really weigh a ton.

Word and Definition

figurative language

noun

language that goes beyond the literal meaning to get a message or point across

Figurative language is language that does not follow the literal meaning. The words create interesting writing and catch the reader's attention.

There are different types of **figurative language**.

Types of Figurative Language	
simile	comparing two unlike things using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> <i>The dog was as big as a bear.</i>
metaphor	comparing two unlike things by describing one thing as another <i>The sun was a burning fire in the sky.</i>
personification	giving human characteristics to a nonhuman thing <i>The flowers stretched out in the morning sun, smiling in the light.</i>
idiom	a phrase that means something different than its literal meaning <i>She did not spill the beans about the surprise party.</i>
hyperbole	exaggerating to make a point <i>The building was one million stories tall.</i>

VOCABULARY CARD: flashback



A **flashback** tells about events that happened in the past.

Word and Definition

flashback

noun

a literary device in which the author interrupts the chronological sequence of a story to present a scene that happened in the past

Flashbacks tell about events that happened at a time earlier than the main story.

Authors can use a **flashback** to explain why a character may behave in a certain way.

Authors can use **flashbacks** to reveal information about a character's past or to explain events that have already happened.

Flashbacks start in the present → go back to the past → return to the present.

VOCABULARY CARD: foreshadowing



The author writes that the character feels as if she is being followed. She hears leaves rustle and twigs snap. This is an example of **foreshadowing**. Later in the story, it is revealed that there is a cougar in the woods near the character's house.

Word and Definition

foreshadowing

noun

a literary device in which a writer gives a hint of what is to come later in the story

Other Words for Foreshadowing

hint

clue

sign

prediction

Foreshadowing is a literary device authors use to give a hint of what is to come later in the story.

Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of the story.

Foreshadowing helps the reader develop expectations about the coming events.

VOCABULARY CARD: irony



Imagine if a fire truck caught on fire. It would be an example of **irony**.

Irony is the difference between what is true and what others know or believe to be true.

There are different types of **irony**.

Types of Irony	
dramatic irony	The audience knows more than the characters.
verbal irony	What is said is different than what is meant.
situational irony	Something happens that is unexpected for the situation.

Word and Definition

irony

noun

a literary device in which contradictory statements or situations reveal a reality that is different from what appears to be true

Other Words for Irony

incongruent

parody

ironía

VOCABULARY CARD: metaphor



A **metaphor** states that one thing is another. For example, *the friends are two peas in a pod*. They are very close.

Word and Definition

metaphor

noun

a figure of speech that makes a comparison by directly relating one thing to another

Other Words for Metaphor

comparison

comparación

analogy

analogía

He is such a chicken! This is a **metaphor** that compares the boy to a chicken. Both are scared easily.

This bedroom is a pigsty. This is a **metaphor** that compares the bedroom to a place where pigs live. Both are dirty.

VOCABULARY CARD: mood



The **mood** of the picture is peaceful. The shining sun, walking trail, and flowers help communicate the **mood**.

Word and Definition

mood

noun

an overall feeling or emotional state communicated through conflict and imagery, as well as through narration and dialogue

Other Words for Mood

feeling

tone

frame of mind

attitude

spirit

In books, **mood** is an overall feeling created by the text and its illustrations.

Mood is developed through conflict, imagery, narration, and dialogue.

Examples of **mood**:

- funny
- creepy
- sad
- cheerful

VOCABULARY CARD: narrative



The girl is reading a **narrative**. It is a made-up story that tells about animals that can talk.

Word and Definition

narrative

noun

an event that is written or told

Other Words for Narrative

account

history

story

tale

A true or made-up story that is written or told is a **narrative**.

A **narrative** has characters, a setting, and events that create a beginning, middle, and end.

VOCABULARY CARD: personification



The stars winked at us. This is an example of **personification**.

Word and Definition

personification

noun

the application of human attributes to something that is not alive or human

Personification is a type of figurative language that gives human attributes to something that is not alive or human.

Personification is not meant to be taken literally.

Example	Meaning
The snowflakes danced in the wind.	The snowflakes are moving in the wind, as if they are dancing.
The cold air snuck through the cracks in the wall.	The cold air from outside came into the house.
My pen skipped across the page.	I wrote easily and quickly.

VOCABULARY CARD: perspective



Perspective is the way characters see the world. Your perspective is your view of the world and how you think about what you see.

Word and Definition

perspective

noun

the thoughts, feelings, and actions of a character; the lens through which they see the world

Other Words for Perspective

viewpoint

point of view

stance

outlook

way of thinking

perspectiva

Perspective is how characters see the world.

Perspective affects the thoughts, feelings, and actions of a character.

Characters with different **perspectives** will respond differently to the same event.

VOCABULARY CARD: point of view



This picture is from the patient's **point of view**.
Imagine what the dentist and her assistant see.

Word and Definition

point of view

noun

the perspective from which a narrative is told; what the narrator sees in relation to the events of the story

Other Words for Point of View

viewpoint outlook perspective

How a story is told is its **point of view**.

A narrative can be told using different **points of view**.

Point of View	Example
first person	I was surprised to find out that I had a cavity. I was nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.
second person	You are surprised to find out that you have a cavity. You are nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.
third person	The patient was surprised to find out that he had a cavity. He was nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.

VOCABULARY CARD: primary source



A letter written by someone who experienced a historical event is a **primary source**.

A **primary source** has original, firsthand information.

A **primary source** is created by a person who experienced a historical event.

Examples of **primary sources**:

- letters
- diaries
- photos
- recorded interviews
- speeches
- artifacts

Word and Definition

primary source

noun

original, firsthand information, such as speeches, letters, photos, diaries, and interviews, recorded or written by the person who experienced the events to which the source refers

VOCABULARY CARD: pun



This costume is a **pun**. It refers to the sign, "Give peas a chance." *Peace* and *peas* sound similar.

Word and Definition

pun

noun

a humorous use of words with multiple meanings or words that sound similar but have different meanings

Other Words for Pun

joke

play on words

wordplay

The saddest part of the week is Monday mourning. This is a **pun**. It refers to Monday morning. The words *morning* and *mourning* sound the same but have different meanings.

The cat stayed home from school because he wasn't feline well. This is a **pun**. It refers to the cat not feeling well. The words *feline* and *feeling* sound similar but have different meanings.

VOCABULARY CARD: quotation



“Our attention spans have been shortened by social media,” said the researcher. This is an example of a **quotation.**

Word and Definition

quotation

noun

the repetition of a sentence, phrase, or passage from speech or text that someone has said or written

Other Words for Quotation

quote citation reference

A **quotation** is the use of a sentence, phrase, or passage that someone else has said or written.

Writers can use **quotations** to support a claim in argumentative writing.

Quotations have quotation marks:

- The expert said, “One of the benefits of playing sports is better mental health.”
- The scientist said, “We have to protect the planet for future generations.”

VOCABULARY CARD: secondary source



A website or online encyclopedia is a **secondary source**.

Word and Definition

secondary source

noun

information that was created later by someone who did not experience firsthand the events to which the source refers

A **secondary source** has secondhand information.

A **secondary source** is created by a person who did not experience a historical event.

Examples of **secondary sources**:

- textbooks
- articles
- books
- biographies
- encyclopedias
- websites

VOCABULARY CARD: simile



The tree was as tall as a skyscraper. This is a **simile** comparing the tree's height to the height of a skyscraper, a very tall building.

Word and Definition

simile

noun

a figure of speech comparing two unlike things, using the words *like* or *as*

Other Words for Simile

comparison

analogy

figure of speech

A **simile** compares two different things using the words *like* or *as*.

He eats like a bird. This **simile** compares how much a boy eats to how much a bird eats. He does not eat much.

VOCABULARY CARD: suspense



*He noticed a shadow on the wall. It looked like a hand, reaching out for the doorknob. But it couldn't be. There was no one else in the house. This is an example of **suspense**.*

Word and Definition

suspense

noun

the tension that keeps a reader's attention and makes the reader want to continue reading

Other Words for Suspense

tension

uncertainty

uneasiness

anxiety

Suspense is the tension that keeps a reader's attention.

Suspense makes the reader want to keep reading.

Writers create **suspense** using sensory details, figurative language, and sentence structure.

VOCABULARY CARD: symbol



An owl is a **symbol** that often is used to stand for wisdom.

Word and Definition

symbol

noun

something in a story or poem that stands for something else

Other Words for Symbol

sign

icon

representation

símbolo

A **symbol** is an object that stands for an idea.
A flag is a **symbol** that stands for a country.
A storm is often a **symbol** that stands for change.

VOCABULARY CARD: theme



The dog and the lemur are friends.
The **theme** of the story is that friends
can be different from each other.

The **theme** is the message the author wants the reader to take away the story. A theme is the central message or moral.

Examples of themes:

- Actions speak louder than words.
- It's okay to be different.
- Treat others how you want to be treated.

Word and Definition

theme

noun

the central idea, message, or lesson that the author wants to convey to readers

Other Words for Theme

central message

lesson

moral

VOCABULARY CARD: tone



In music, a song's **tone** is how the song sounds. Songs can be played with happiness or sadness, for example. In a text, **tone** is how the story sounds, which is the author's attitude, or how they feel about the subject.

Word and Definition

tone

noun

the speaker's attitude toward a subject in a text

Other Words for Tone

attitude

Tone is the author's attitude toward a subject in the text. **Tone** is created by the author's word choice. Mood is about the feeling a text gives to readers. **Tone** is about the author's feelings about the text.

Examples of tones:

- sarcastic
- motivational
- humorous
- informative
- hopeful
- curious
- angry
- emotional

VOCABULARY CARD: voice



Voice is the way the author's individuality comes through on the page.

Voice makes a piece of writing unique.

Authors create **voice** with word choice, sentence structure, tone, and punctuation.

In this photo, you can see that one ladybug is not like the others. It is special. In a text, what the author thinks and feels is **voice**. **Voice** is what makes a piece of writing stand out. Each author has a unique **voice** to show their individuality. Authors use tone, word choice, and point of view to share their **voice**.

Word and Definition

voice

noun

the way in which a thought, feeling, or happening is expressed

Other Words for Voice

feeling

personality

voz