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

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**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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>word part</th>
<th>auto</th>
<th>bio</th>
<th>graphy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meaning</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>life</td>
<td>writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**autobiografía**
**Characterization** is how an author creates and describes characters. **Characterization** includes what characters say, think, and do. **Characterization** can be direct or indirect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Characterization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>direct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The author directly tells the reader about the character’s traits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indirect</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The author shows the reader the character’s traits through their actions, thoughts, and interactions with others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.

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
**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*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word and Definition</th>
<th>Other Words for Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>conflict</strong></td>
<td><strong>argument</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noun</td>
<td><strong>argumento</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a struggle between characters or a problem characters are trying to overcome; opposing actions between people or forces</td>
<td><strong>disagreement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>conflicto</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>fight</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>struggle</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

There are four types of *conflict*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>External</strong> (outside the character)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Character and Character</strong>—when two characters disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Character and Society</strong>—when a character disagrees with the rules of society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Character and Nature</strong>—when a character has problems with the natural world, such as weather</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word and Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>figurative language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>language that goes beyond the literal meaning to get a message or point across</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Irony</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dramatic irony</td>
<td>The audience knows more than the characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verbal irony</td>
<td>What is said is different than what is meant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>situational irony</td>
<td>Something happens that is unexpected for the situation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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
- sad
- creepy
- cheerful

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
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.

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
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of View</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>first person</td>
<td>I was surprised to find out that I had a cavity. I was nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second person</td>
<td>You are surprised to find out that you have a cavity. You are nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third person</td>
<td>The patient was surprised to find out that he had a cavity. He was nervous, but the appointment was not too bad.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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**Word and Definition**

**pun**

type of joke

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

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**Other Words for Pun**

- joke
- play on words
- wordplay

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*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

“A 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.”
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.

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.

### Word and Definition

**symbol**

noun

something in a story or poem that stands for something else

### Other Words for Symbol

sign
icon
representation
*símbolo*
**VOCABULARY CARD: theme**

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.

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**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

---

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

**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.

**Word and Definition**

**voice**

noun

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

**Other Words for Voice**

feeling

personality

*voz*