

Literacy

Words to Talk about Language

The following terms will help you understand and discuss the skills you use in your reading and writing.

TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Subject	The main focus of a sentence	<i>The boy dreamed of owning a shop in London.</i>
Noun	A word used to identify a person, place, object or idea	<i>The boy dreamed of owning a shop in London.</i>
Pronoun	A word used in the place of one or more nouns	<i>She said they would never find it.</i>
Verb	A word or phrase that indicates an action or state of being	<i>She waited beside the lift, hoping he would see her.</i>
Phrase	Two or more linked words in a sentence that don't make full sense on their own	<i>I avoid dangerous situations.</i>
Clause	Part of a sentence containing a verb	<i>From the window, in the distance, you can see the hills.</i>
Main Clause	A clause that can exist on its own as a simple sentence	<i>You can see the hills.</i>
Subordinate Clause	A clause that needs to be attached to a main clause to make full sense	<i>He enjoyed his meal until he saw the chef.</i>
Adjective	A word or phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun	<i>An old man shouted from a terraced house.</i>
Adverb	A word or phrase that modifies a verb, adjective or another adverb	<i>The man spoke very loudly.</i>

Words to Talk about Texts

These terms will help you understand and discuss the skills you use in your reading and writing.

TERM	DEFINITION
Fact	Information that can be proved to be correct
Opinion	A personal viewpoint which is not necessarily based on fact
Purpose	The reason why a text has been written
Target Audience	The group of people a text aims to communicate with
Layout	Positioning material on the page to create the best effect
Presentation	The use of techniques such as headings, changes in font or graphics to add extra meaning to the text
Word choice	The word selection a writer makes to influence the reader's response
Sentence structure	The ways in which the writer changes sentence organisation to influence the reader
Imagery	The use of techniques such as similes, metaphors and personification to create pictures in the reader's mind
Phonology	Techniques using the effects of the sounds of words such as onomatopoeia, alliteration and assonance