Fiction Vocabulary Review



Paradox: a statement that contradicts itself because it contains two statements that are both true, but i cannot both be true at the same time.

**Examples:** You can save money by spending it. I'm nobody. Wise fool. Bittersweet. Crash landing. You shouldn't go in the water until you know how to swim. Be cruel to be kind. The beginning of the end. Deep down, you're really shallow.

Read more at http://
examples.yourdictionary.com/
examples-ofparadox.html#G2ZK2T1GKC4kTLZR



**Hubris:** extreme pride and arrogance shown by a character that ultimately brings about his/her downfall.

**Examples:** Achilles heel, Hercules and Megara, Mr. Incredible and working alone.



**Foil:** a character whose qualities are in contrast with the qualities of another character. This highlights the good traits of the other character.

**Examples:** Spiderman and venom, Megamind and Metroman/Titan,



**Denouement:** from the French word "to untie". The denouement is the resolution of the issue of a complicated plot in fiction. Usually after the conflict.

**Examples:** They lived happily ever after. The bad guy went to jail.



**Motif:** an object or idea that repeats itself throughout a literary work.

**Examples:** An image, sound, action or other figures that have a symbolic significance and contributes toward the development of theme.



**Protagonist:** the main character in a literary work.

**Examples:** Ponyboy, Nobody Ownes, Harry Potter, Katniss, Anne Frank, Superman



**Antagonist:** a person or force that works against the protagonist.

**Examples:** Enemies, bad government, peer pressure, nature, depression, anxiety, selfishness.



**Satire:** pointing out the dishonesty and silliness of individuals and society in a funny way.

**Examples:** Saturday Night Live, Jimmy Falon, Mark Twain





Archetypal Character: character types that pop up across all genres of literature, both classic and contemporary. Everyone is familiar with these guys, because everywhere we turn.

Examples: Hero, soccer mom, villain, bad teacher



Archetypal Story: story types that pop up across all genres of literature, both classic and contemporary.

**Examples:** Love story, hero story, rags to riches.