

AP Short Story Review

Below, I have listed examples from the stories of the 25 terms you are responsible for. Further examples can be seen on the multiple handouts, notes, and group work packets we completed in class. I recommend you review those before Friday's test. I also suggest you review the introduction to the book, the notes on the plain and ornate style, and the notes on folk tales *as well as* the stories. I also *strongly suggest* you review the page we completed as a class on the diction and syntax analysis of "Speech in the Virginia Convention."

Test format:

Part 1: match the authors to their stories.

Part 2: match literary terms to their definitions.

Part 3: match examples of these literary terms to their proper terms.

Part 4: basic multiple choice questions about the stories, the introduction, and folk tales.

Part 5: a brief section of AP-style multiple choice questions on "Letters from an American Farmer" and "Speech in the Virginia Convention."

Part 6: Essay. I strongly suggest you focus on "Speech in the Virginia Convention" to prepare....

Literary terms and examples:

1. **allegory:** A tale in prose or verse in which characters, actions, or settings represent abstract (theoretical rather than actual or physical) ideas or moral qualities.

Example(s):

"Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." For example, the Widow represented lost beauty, while Medbourne represented the waste of money.

2. **allusion:** A reference to a person, place, event, or literary work that a writer expects a reader to recognize.

Example(s):

We saw many in "The History of the Dividing Line," like Terra Australis Incognita and Aesop's bread carrier.

We also saw many Biblical allusions in "Of Plymouth Plantation," and many Biblical and mythological ones in "Speech in the Virginia Convention."

3. **analogy:** A comparison made between two things to show the similarities between them.

Example(s): "The Crisis, Number 1": Paine compares the King to both a common murder/thief and a bad father.

4. **characterization:** The means by which a writer reveals a character's personality:

- (1) through the character's actions;
- (2) through the character's speeches and thoughts;
- (3) through the physical description of the character;
- (4) through showing what other characters think or say about the character;
- (5) through a direct statement revealing the writer's idea of the character

5. **conflict:** A struggle between two opposing forces or characters.

A. **internal:** Occurs when a character struggles with a difficult decision between two choices or two courses of action.

Example(s): In "The Devil and Tom Walker," Tom must decide whether to take the devil's deal or not.

In “To Build a Fire,” the man must decide whether to admit his mistake, to turn back, or even to kill the dog.

B. external:

(1) man vs. man: between two people

Example(s):

“The Devil and Tom Walker”: Tom vs. his wife when they fight.

“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”: The men fight over the Widow.

(2) man vs. society

Example(s):

“Speech in the Virginia Convention.”: Patrick Henry vs. the men in the convention whom he must convince to arm the militia. Also, Henry vs. England, the real enemy.

“The Crisis, Number 1”: Thomas Paine vs. England. Also, Paine vs. the American “patriots” who really aren’t patriotic.

(3) man vs. nature or the supernatural

Example(s):

“The Devil and Tom Walker”: Tom tries to break the deal with the devil.

“To Build a Fire”: the man battles nature in many forms, like the ice, the snow, the hidden hot spring, the fire, the dog...

In “Of Plymouth Plantation,” the many storms at sea, the cold winter, and the lack of food are all examples of man vs. nature.

6. **epithet**: A descriptive name or phrase used to characterize someone or something.

Example(s): “The Crisis, Number 1”: the summer soldier and sunshine patriot

7. **foil**: A character who sets off another character by contrast.

Example(s): “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”: Piney is the foil of the Duchess and Mother Shipton, while Tom is the foil of Oakhurst.

8. **foreshadowing**: The use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest what action is to come.

Example(s): In “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment,” the rose wilting, the butterfly dying, the water spilling, and the allusion to Ponce de Leon’s failure to find the Fountain of Youth all foreshadow that these people will age again and can’t stay young.

9. **imagery**: Words or phrases that create pictures, or images, in the reader’s mind.

Example(s): Think of the description of Dr. Heidegger’s office or the setting in “The Devil and Tom Walker.”

10. **irony**: A contrast or incongruity between what is stated and what is meant, or between what is expected to happen and what actually happens.

A. **verbal irony**: a writer or speaker says one thing and means something entirely different

B. **dramatic irony**: a reader or an audience perceives something that a character does not know

C. irony of situation: A discrepancy between the expected result of some action or situation and its actual result.

Example(s): There are two examples in “The Devil and Tom Walker”:

1. Tom consoles himself for the loss of his valuables with the loss of his wife.
2. The louder Tom prays and sings, the worse he has sinned that week.

11. **narration:** The kind of writing or speaking that tells a story.

12. **narrator:** One who narrates, or tells, a story.

13. **persuasion:** The type of speaking or writing that is intended to make its audience adopt a certain opinion, perform an action, or do both.

Example(s):

In “Speech in the Virginia Convention,” Patrick Henry is trying to persuade the men at the convention to arm the militia and join the fight against Britain.

In “The Crisis, Number 1,” Thomas Paine is trying to persuade the Americans to fight against the British.

14. **point of view:** The vantage point from which a narrative is told.

(1) **1st person:** the story is told by *one of the characters in his or her own words*, and the reader is told only what this character knows and observes.

Example(s): “The History of the Dividing Line,” “Of Plymouth Plantation,” “Speech in the Virginia Convention,” and “The Crisis, Number 1.”

(2) **3rd person limited:** the narrator is *not* a character and focuses on *one* character in the story.

Example(s):

None of the stories is exclusively 3rd limited.

(3) **3rd person omniscient:** The narrator is an all-knowing observer who describes and comments on *all* the characters and actions in the story.

Example(s): “To Build a Fire” and “The Outcasts of Poker Flat.”

*Folk tales use a combination of 1st person and 3rd person limited point of view: “The Devil and Tom Walker” and “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment.”

15. **rhetoric:** The art of using language for persuasion.

16. **rhetorical question:** An element of style that helps persuade, a rhetorical question suggests its own answer or does not actually require an answer.

Example(s): See group work packet on “Speech in the Virginia Convention” and “The Crisis, Number 1” for examples.

17. **satire:** A kind of writing that holds up to ridicule or contempt the weaknesses and wrongdoings of individuals, groups, institutions, or humanity in general.

Example(s): “The Devil and Tom Walker”: pseudo-religious people are satirized.

18. **setting:** The time and place in which events in a short story, novel, play, or narrative poem occur.

19. **simile:** A figure of speech comparing the two essentially unlike things through the use of a specific word of comparison, such as *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*.

Example(s): “The Devil and Tom Walker”: see p. 107 for numerous examples, like: “pacing carefully like a cat” or “a miserable horse, whose ribs were as articulate as the bars of a gridiron.”

20. **stock or stereotyped character:** A character type that appears so often that his/her nature is immediately familiar to a reader or to an audience.

Example(s): “The Devil and Tom Walker”: the wife is the stereotypical shrew, Tom is the stereotypical miser, and the devil is the stereotypical devil.

21. **style:** A writer’s characteristic way of writing, determined by the choice of words, the arrangement of words in sentences, and the relationship of the sentences to one another. (A distinctive style distinguishes the works of one writer from those of another.)

Reread notes on the plain and the ornate styles.

22. **symbol:** Any object, person, place, or action that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, an attitude, a belief, or a value.

Example(s): “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”: the portrait represents eternal youth and beauty; the rose is lost love; the mirror is not just Heidegger’s failures, but the failure of science in general....

23. **tall tale:** A humorous story that is outlandishly exaggerated.

Example(s): In “The History of the Dividing Line,” the story of the fat louse guiding the lost man to safety is a tall tale.

24. **theme:** The general idea or insight about life that a writer wishes to convey in a literary work.

Example(s):

“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”: 1. Don’t waste your youth. 2. Don’t waste a second chance. 3. Don’t try to change nature, especially human nature.

“To Build a Fire”: 1. Trust your instincts. 2. Listen to your elders. 3. Survival of the fittest.

“Of Plymouth Plantation”: Despite their hardships, they triumphed because it was God’s will.

“Letters from an American Farmer”: America is a special place unlike any other.

25. **tone:** The attitude a writer takes toward his or her subject, characters, and readers.

“The History of the Dividing Line”: respectful of the job to be done, sophisticated humor, educated and cultured.

“Speech in the Virginia Convention” and “The Crisis, Number 1”: passionate, urgent, and serious.