

3rd Grade ELA Vocabulary Terms

A

abstract noun - a noun that names an idea such as *childhood* or *friendship*

act - a group of connected scenes in a drama

adjective - a word that describes a noun or pronoun

adverb - a word or phrase that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

antecedent - the word a pronoun replaces

apostrophe (') - a punctuation mark that shows possession

author - the real person who wrote a story, often different from the narrator

B

bibliography - an organized list of resources used to write an article or a report

bold print - when some of the text in a passage looks darker than the rest of the words

C

capitalization - using capital, or uppercase, letters

caption - a short title that tells what a diagram, illustration, photo, or map is about

cause and effect - an organizational pattern that shows how one event causes another event to happen

chapter - a section of a story

character - a person or animal in a story or poem

comma (,) - a mark that shows a pause in a list of items, a date, a location, or an address

comparative adjective - an adjective that compares two things using the ending **-er** or the word **more**

comparative adverb - an adverb that compares two actions using the ending **-er** or the word **more**

compare - to tell how things are alike

complex sentence - a sentence with a dependent clause and an independent clause. It may also express more than one idea

compound sentence - a sentence that expresses more than one complete thought. It is made up of two or more simple sentences

conclusion - a sentence or section that sums up the writer's main idea

conflict - a problem the characters in the story have

context clues - hints you get from other words so you can figure out a word's meaning

contrast - to tell how things are different

coordinating conjunction - a word such as ***and***, ***but***, or ***or*** that joins parts of a sentence or two clauses

D

dependent clause - a clause that cannot stand alone; it needs to be attached to an independent clause

diagram - a picture with labels

dialogue - words a characters says

draft - one of the first versions of a writer's work

drama - literature that is meant to be acted out

E

edit - to fix mistakes in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

electronic menu - a feature that allows you to choose different functions or different Web pages

exclamation point (!) - used at the end of a sentence that shows surprise or excitement

F

fable - a story that has animals as characters and teaches a lesson

fact - information that is true and can be proved

fairy tale - a story that often includes magic, starts "**Once upon a time**," and usually has a prince, princess, queen, or king as the characters

first-person point of view - a point of view in which the narrator is a character in a story and uses the pronoun ***I***

folktale - a story that is passed down from one person to another over time, has magical elements, and may try to explain how something was created

future tense - shows that the action will happen later and uses the word ***will*** before the verb

G

glossary - a list of words and their meaning

graphic organizer - a visual aid that helps you sort your thoughts and helps you arrange what you want to say

H

heading - a word or phrase that comes before a paragraph or section of a passage

homographs - words that are spelled the same but said differently. They also have different meanings

homonyms - words that are spelled and said the same but have different meanings

hyperlink - word or phrase that you can click on to jump to a new document, Web site or a new section

I

icon - a picture or symbol that stands for a computer program or a special function

idiom - a figure of speech that does not literally mean what it says

illustration - a drawing that shows information to help you understand a story

independent clause - a phrase with a subject and verb that expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone

informational writing - writing that is true and gives facts

irregular plural noun - a plural noun that does not add **-s** or **-es**

irregular verb - a verb that does not form the past tense by adding **-d** or **-ed**

K

keyword - a topic you type into a search engine's search window

L

legend - a story that is set in a real historic time and is based on people who really lived, but have been made more than human throughout the years

literal language - language that means exactly what it says

literature - made-up writing that entertains readers

M

main idea - the most important point the author wants you to understand about a passage

map - a drawing of an area of land or water

motivation - the reason why a character does something

multiple-meaning words - words that are spelled the same but have more than one meaning

myth - a story about the distant past that is used to explain the universe, which uses people with unusual powers

N

narrative writing - writing that tells a story

narrator - the person who tells a story

nonliteral language - language that does not mean what it says

noun - a word that names a person, place, thing, or an idea

O

object - a noun that receives the action in a sentence

opinion - a statement that may be true, but it is usually based on the author's feelings or beliefs

outline - a list of ideas used for writing

P

past tense - shows the action already happened; the verb usually ends with **-d** or **-ed**

period (.) - used at the end of a statement or command

persuasive writing - writing with a certain point of view. The author tries to get the reader to agree with that point of view

photo - a picture that shows people, places, and things described in a passage

plot - a series of events in a story

plural noun - names more than one person, place, thing, or idea

poetry - literature written in lines that uses creative language

point of view - the perspective from which a story is told

prefix - a group of letters added to the beginning of a root word that changes the word's meaning

present tense - shows that the action happens now; some verbs have **-s** added

pronoun - a word that stands for a noun

publish - to let others read your work either in print or digitally

punctuation - the use of marks that help you read a sentence

Q

question mark (?) - used at the end of a question

quotation marks (“ ”) - show when someone is speaking

R

research - to get facts and information from sources, such as books, encyclopedias,

newspapers, CD-ROMS, and Web sites

resolution - an answer to the conflict in a story

resource - any material that will help a writer find information

revise - to make corrections and changes to a draft or piece of writing

rhyme - when two or more words end with a similar sound

rhythm - a pattern of sounds in a line

root word - the main part of a word

S

scan - to look for key words or terms to find specific information

scene - a part of an act that takes place in one location

sentence - a complete thought with a subject and a verb, correct capitalization, and proper punctuation

sequence - the order of events in a text

sequence chart - a graphic organizer that shows an order of events

setting - where and when a story takes place

simple sentence - a sentence that has a subject and a verb and states a complete thought

singular noun - names one person, place, thing, or idea

skim - to quickly read a passage and focus on the general idea

spelling - the correct order of letters in words

stage directions - in drama, writing in italics that shows what the characters do

stanza - a group of lines in a poetry

story - literature that has characters, setting, and a plot, and is written in sentences and paragraphs

subject - an area of study, such as science, social studies, and language arts

subject - who or what does the action in a sentence

subject-verb agreement - when the subject and the verb of a sentence match in number as singular or plural

subordinating conjunction - a word such as *after*, *although*, *because*, *before*, *if*, *since*, *until*, or *when* that connects a dependent clause to an independent clause

suffix - group of letters added to the end of a root word

superlative adjective - an adjective that compares more than two things using the ending

-est or the word **most**

superlative adverb - an adverb that compares more than two actions using the ending **-est** or the word **most**

supporting details - pieces of information in a passage that support, or back up, the main idea

T

table of contents - the pages in the front of a book that show the names and page number of the chapters

text features - elements of informational texts that help readers find information

theme - a story's message

third-person point of view - a point of view in which the narrator is outside the story and uses the pronouns **he** or **she**

title - the name of a passage

topic sentence - a sentence that tells the central idea of a paragraph or passage and is usually at the beginning of a paragraph or passage

trait - something that describes the personality of a character

transition words - words that help readers connect ideas

V

verb - a word in a sentence that shows action or state of being

verb tense - shows when an action happens

W

web - a graphic organizer that has the main topic in the center circle or oval and ideas about the topic in circles or ovals around it

word families - groups of words that have common spellings and sounds