

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Vocabulary Terms

### **A**

**adage** - a statement that contains some kind of truth about human nature

**adjective** - a word that describes a person, place, or thing

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

**affix** - a prefix or suffix that is added to a root word

**agree** - to match in gender (male, female, or neither) and number (singular or plural)

**allusion** - a reference to a person or event from literature, history, or mythology

**antecedent** - the word a pronoun replaces

**antonym** - a word that means the opposite of another word

**apostrophe** - a punctuation mark used to create a contraction or a possessive noun

**argument** - a written piece that states and defends an opinion

### **B**

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

### **C**

**capitalization** - using capital (or uppercase) letters where necessary

**cast of characters** - a list of characters who appear in a play

**cause** - a reason why something happens

**characters** - the main actors in a story. They can be people, animals, or other creatures.

**character trait** - a quality possessed by a character

**chart** - a graphic aid that uses columns and rows to organize information

**chronological order** - the sequence in which events happen

**claim** - a statement that something - an idea, event, or observation – is true

**climax** - the part of a story where the conflict reaches its most exciting point

**colon** - a punctuation mark used to introduce a list or an explanation in a sentence

**comma** - a punctuation mark used to show a pause in a sentence or to connect ideas

**compare** - to examine and consider the similarities between two or more objects, ideas, or people

**complete sentence** - a sentence that contains both a subject and a verb

**complex sentence** - a sentence made up of two sentences: one that can stand on its own and one that cannot

**compound sentence** - a sentence that is made of two sentences that can both stand on their own

**concluding statement** - the closing statement in an argument

**conflict** - a problem that the main character in a story must solve

**conjunction** - a word that joins two complete sentences to make a compound sentence

**context clues** - the words, phrases, or sentences around an unfamiliar word that help you understand its meaning

**contraction** - two words joined to make one; an apostrophe takes the place of the missing letters

**contrast** - to examine and consider the differences between two or more objects, ideas, or people

## **D**

**dependent clause** - a group of words that include a noun and a verb, but do not make sense on their own as a sentence

**description** - descriptive words that help to paint a picture in the reader's mind

**detail** - a specific piece of information

**diagram** - a drawing with labels that shows the different parts of an object or how something works

**dialogue** - the words characters say to each other

**dictionary** - a book that lists words and their definitions

**drama** - a play that is written in dialogue and performed on stage

## **E**

**editing** - correcting grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors in a piece of writing

**effect** - a result of a cause

**evidence** - information used to support a claim

**exclamation point** - a punctuation mark used to show excitement, surprise, or strong emotion

**expert opinion** - the opinion of an expert or someone who knows a lot about a topic

**eyewitness account** - a first-hand description of an event

## **F**

**fact** - a statement that is always true and can be proved

**fiction** - writing that describes made-up people and events

**figurative language** - language that does not mean exactly what it says; two examples are similes and metaphors

**first-person** - the point of view expressed by a narrator who is part of the story; uses the pronoun I

**flowchart** - a graphic organizer that shows the order of events in a story from start to finish

**formal style** - a writing style characterized by language that is proper and impersonal

**fragment** - a sentence that is missing either a subject or a verb

**future progressive tense** - a form of a verb used to express an ongoing action that has not happened yet

### **G**

**glossary** - a section at the end of a book that lists alphabetically all the technical words and key words in the text with their definitions

**graphic** - a visual tool such as a chart, graph, diagram, or timeline that is used to convey information

### **H**

**heading** - a title in bold print at the top of a section of text or column of a chart that says what the section or column is about

**homophones** - words that sound the same or similar, but have different meanings

### **I**

**idiom** - a phrase whose meaning is different from the individual words that make it up

**independent clause** - a group of words with a noun and a verb that can stand alone as a sentence

**inference** - an educated guess about a passage based on the author's clues and the reader's prior knowledge

**informal style** - a writing style characterized by language that is casual or conversational

**informational text** - nonfiction text that provides information about a topic

**irregular verb** - a verb that has different spellings when used in different tenses

### **L**

**literal language** - language that means exactly what it says

### **M**

**main idea** - what a story or article is mainly about

**metaphor** - a comparison of two unlike things without using the word *like* or the word *as*

**meter** - the pattern of rhythm in a poem

**modal auxiliary verb** - a verb such as *can*, *may*, *must*, and *will* that relates a possibility or necessity of an action

**motivations** - the reasons for the ways characters act

## **N**

**narrative text** - a text that entertains the reader with a story

**narrator** - the person who tells the story

**nonfiction** - writing that describes factual information about people, places, and things

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

## **O**

**object of a preposition** - the noun or pronoun in a prepositional phrase

**opinion** - a personal belief that cannot be proven true

**outline** - a plan or "skeleton" of an essay in list form

## **P**

**paraphrase** - to restate information from a resource in your own words

**past progressive tense** - a form of a verb that tells about an ongoing action that has already happened

**period** - a punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence to show that it is a statement

**perspective** - the attitude or feeling of the author toward the topic

**plot** - a series of events that happen in a story

**poetry** - a genre of writing that is separated into lines and stanzas, in which an author uses sound devices such as rhyme and rhythm to create meaning and evoke emotion in the reader

**point of view** - the perspective, or view, from which the narrator tells the story

**position statement** - a statement of the writer's opinion in an argument

**possessive noun** - a noun that shows who or what owns an object

**precise** - a word used to describe something that is specific or exact

**prefix** - an affix added to the beginning of a root word

**preposition** - a word that shows relationship in time or space

**prepositional phrase** - a phrase that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun; can act as an adjective or adverb

**present progressive tense** - a form of a verb used to express an ongoing action that is happening now

**primary source** - a source written at the time of an event by someone who was there

**problem and solution** - a way of organizing a text by presenting a problem and describing how it is solved

**progressive tense** - a form of a verb used to express an ongoing action without a specific end time

**pronoun** - a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence

**prose** - a form of writing in which one sentence follows another, with sentences arranged into groups called paragraphs

**proverb** - a short, well-known saying that often gives advice

**punctuation** - the symbols used to organize sentences

**purpose** - an author's reason for writing

## **Q**

**question mark** - a punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence to show that it is a question

**quotation marks** - punctuation marks used to show someone's exact words

## **R**

**relative adverb** - an adverb, such as *when*, *where* and *why*, that introduces a relative clause

**relative clause** - a group of words that tells more about a noun

**relative pronoun** - a pronoun, such as *which*, *that*, *who*, *whom*, and *whose*, that is used in a relative clause

**research** - to gather information about a topic

**resolution** - how the conflict or problem in a story is solved

**resources** - print and online texts that provide information about a topic

**revising** - deleting, reordering, and organizing sentences to make your writing better

**rhyme** - words that end with the same sound

**rhythm** - the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a poem

**rising action** - the events in a story that lead to a conflict

**root** - the base, or main part, of a word

**run-on sentence** - two or more complete sentences that are joined together without proper punctuation

## **S**

**scene** - a part of a drama

**secondary source** - an account of an event that was not witnessed by the writer

**second-person** - the point of view expressed by a narrator who speaks directly to the reader, using the word *you*

**semicolon** - a punctuation mark used to join sentences that are related

**sequence** - the order in which things happen

**setting** - where and when a story takes place

**simile** - a comparison of two unlike things using the word *like* or the word *as*

**simple sentence** - a complete sentence that expresses one main thought

**sources** - materials that provide facts, details, and other information about topics

**stage directions** - instructions written in a play that tell the actors what to do

**stanza** - a group of lines in a poem

**subject** - the person or thing doing the action in a sentence

**subject-verb agreement** - the use of a singular verb for a singular subject, and a plural verb for a plural subject

**suffix** - an affix added to the end of a root word

**summary** - a brief description of a longer work; a summary states only the most important ideas and details

**supporting detail** - a fact, example, other piece of information that strengthens or backs up the main idea

**synonyms** - words that have the same or similar meanings

## **T**

**tense** - the time in which a sentence takes place – past, present, future

**text structure** - the way in which an article or passage is organized

**theme** - the central idea or message of a story, poem, or drama

**third-person** - the point of view expressed by a narrator who tells the story without actually being in it

**third-person limited** - the point of view expressed by a narrator who knows only the thoughts and feelings of a single character

**third-person omniscient** - the point of view expressed by a narrator who knows all of the characters' thoughts and feelings

**timeline** - a graphic organizer that shows the dates when important events happened

**tone** - a writer's attitude toward his or her subject

**topic sentence** - a statement of the main idea in a paragraph

**transitions** - words or phrases that connect ideas to make writing flow better

### **V**

**verb** - a word that expresses an action or state of being

**verse** - a group of lines in a poem

### **W**

**web** - a graphic organizer that shows the main idea of a story or article in the center and details in connected circles

**word choice** - the words a writer chooses to convey his or her ideas

**writing style** - a writer's unique way of writing; also called a writer's "voice"