

Glossary

adjective A word that describes a noun (for example: a *big* dog; a *good* idea).

adverb A word that modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb (for example: I run *quickly*; the garden is *quite* pretty; I run *very* quickly).

adverbial A word or phrase that gives more information about a verb. Usually the information is about where, when or how something happened (for example: He looked *under* the bed. She arrived *last week*. They did it *without any fuss*).

alliteration Words starting with the same *sound* that the writer has placed near each other for effect (for example: the **big, blue bus**; one **kick** caused **chaos**).

apostrophe It can be used for two purposes: to show that one or more letters have been missed out (for example: can't, they're, he's); to show possession (for example: Sarah's pen).

argument A point of view that is explained and defended. An argument in an essay can be an exploration of both sides of a point of view.

autobiography Writing about a person's life written by that person. 'Autobiography' is an old Greek word that in direct translation means 'self-life writing'.

biography Writing about someone else's life.

character A person in a play or story: a person created by the writer.

characterisation This is about how a character has been written by the author; how the author presents the character so that we see them in a particular way.

clause See **main clause** and **subordinate clause**.

coherence How a whole text is structured and brought together.

cohesion How details in a text join together. For example, through the use of connectives and other cohesive ties.

cohesive tie Another term for a discourse marker.

colloquial language Informal language that is normally used in speech rather than writing (for example: 'They're out' rather than 'They are not at home'; 'yeah' rather than 'yes').

colon (:) A punctuation mark used to introduce a list, a quotation or an explanation of something. Also used in place of the phrase 'that is to say' or 'in other words'.

comma (,) A punctuation mark used as a pause in a sentence to make meaning clear. It is also used to separate words in a list.

complement The complement of a sentence is its *completion*. The complement completes the sense of the sentence or part of it. The complements in these two sentences are in italics: He was *unhappy*. She made *me worried*.

complex sentence A sentence with at least one subordinate clause.

conjunction A word that joins main clauses into one sentence, or joins subordinate clauses to main clauses. Conjunctions include: *when, because, and, but, or, while, although, if, unless*.

connective This word is sometimes used to refer to a conjunction or other discourse marker.

connotation The implied meaning of a word or phrase. For example, the word *mob* means a large group of people, but it *connotes* violence. If someone *dashes* down the road, we know that they are moving quickly, but that choice of word also connotes urgency. A connotation is sometimes called a nuance.

context The context of a poem, play, novel or story is the set of conditions in which it was written. These might include: the writer's life; society, habits and beliefs at the time they wrote; an event that influenced the writing; and the genre of the writing. The context is also seen in terms of influences on the reader, so for example, a modern audience would see a Shakespeare play differently from audiences in his own time, as their life experiences would be different.

deduce To work something out for yourself, using clues.