
ISAT Vocabulary

2011

Article

A piece of writing, usually nonfiction, written about a specific topic (such as in magazines or newspapers).

Passage or Selection

A portion of a longer written work

Author's Purpose or Author's Message

The reason an author writes about a topic.

Main Character

The central character of the story, the one that the reader follows through the story.

The main character is usually involved in the problem, the climax, and its resolution.

Fact

**Something that actually exists
or is true.**

Opinion

A personal view or belief that cannot be proven to be certain.

Base Word or Root Word

**The main part of a word without prefixes or
suffixes.**

Prefix

An affix placed **before** a base word to change the meaning of the word.

Suffix

An affix placed **after** a base word to
change the meaning of the word.

Context Clues

Words or phrases in a sentence that help you figure out the meaning of an unknown word.

Synonym

A word that has the **same** or nearly the same meaning as another.

Antonym

A word **opposite** in meaning to
another.

Compound Word

Two words joined to form a new word.

Statement

A single sentence.

Main Idea

The most **important** thought in a passage. What the story is **mostly** about.

Supporting Details

Statements that give **more**
information about the main idea.

Draw a Conclusion

Coming to a reasoned deduction or logical thought using information from the text.

Inference

**Using what you read and what you know to
come to a new thought.**

Summary

**A short, retelling of a story, article, passage,
etc.**

Heading

A title or caption of a page, chapter, etc,

Diagram

A drawing that explains the parts or operation of an object or a process.

Graphic

A computer generated image.

Chart

Giving information in the form of a table.

Bold Print

When a word is typed in darker print used to put emphasis on the word.

Table

An arrangement of words, numbers, or symbols in parallel columns to show facts of relationships.

Time Line

A line with important events about a topic or someone's life and the dates that they occurred.

Sequence

One thing after another. (The order that events occur.)

Genres

A category (of writing) having a particular form, content, or technique.

Drama

A serious story intended for representation by actors reading dialogue (such as a play).

Poem

A type of writing that is usually in verses or stanzas and includes interesting words and rhythm.

Narrative

A story or account of events that usually includes dialogue.

Suggest

To mention or introduce

Setting

The surroundings or environment where something takes place.

Story Elements

Characters, setting, plot, and theme of a story.

Problem

**Any question or matter involving doubt,
difficulty, or uncertainty.**

Theme

A dominate idea or message.

Plot

Storyline. The events in a story.

Conflict

Disagreement or Opposition

Resolution

A solution or settling of a problem.

Stanza or Verse

An arrangement of a certain number of lines, usually four or more, sometimes having a fixed length, meter, or rhyme scheme, forming a division of a poem.

Legend

A non-historical or unverifiable story handed down by tradition from earlier times and popularly accepted as historical.

Myth

A traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event, with or without a determinable basis of fact or a natural explanation.

Folktale

**Any belief or story passed on traditionally,
especially one considered to be false or
based on superstition.**

Alliteration

**Two or more words of a word group
beginning with the same letter/sound.
(The wild wind whistled and
wailed)**

Onomatopoeia

**The formation of a word, such as
cuckoo or boom, by imitation of a
sound made.**

Rhyme Scheme

**The pattern of rhymes used in a poem,
usually marked by letters.**

Fable

A short tale to teach a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters.

Image

A physical likeness or representation of a person, animal, or thing, photographed, painted, sculptured, etc.

Simile

A figure of speech in which two unlike things are explicitly compared, as in “she is like a rose.”

Personification

Applying personal or human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas.

Metaphor

A figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance.

‘in common’

**Belonging equally to, or shared alike by, two
or more.**

Compare and Contrast

**Explaining the similarities and differences
between two or more people, places, or
things.**

Cause

A person or thing that acts, happens, or exists in such a way that some specific thing happens as a result; the producer of an effect.

Effect

Result; consequence

Autobiography

**A history of a person's life written or told by
that person.**

Biography

A written account of another person's life.

Character Traits

Descriptions of a character's personality.

Dialogue

Conversation between two or more people.