



# **Grammar Dog Glossary of Literary Terms**

## About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



Gramwardog.com LLC  
P.O. Box 299  
Christoval, Texas 76935  
Phone: 325-896-2479  
Fax: 325-896-2676  
fifi@gramwardog.com

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## LITERARY GLOSSARY

### A

**Alexandrine.** A line of poetry written in iambic hexameter (six feet of iambs).

**Allegory.** A story with both a literal and symbolic meaning.

**Alliteration.** The repetition of initial consonant or vowel sounds in two or more successive or nearby words. Example: *fit* and *fearless*; *as accurate as the ancient author*.

**Allusion.** A reference to a well-known person, place, event, work of art, myth, or religion. Example: **Hercules, Eden, Waterloo, Prodigal Son, Superman.**

**Amphibrach.** A foot of poetry with an unaccented syllable, an accented syllable, and an unaccented syllable. Example: *another*.

**Amphimacer.** A foot of poetry with an accented syllable, an unaccented syllable, and an accented syllable. Example: *up and down*.

**Anachronism.** Something that appears in the wrong time period. Example: a chiming clock in *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar* which is set in ancient Rome long before the clock was invented.

**Anadiplosis.** A type of repetition in which the last words of a sentence are used to begin the next sentence.

**Analogy.** A comparison of two things that are somewhat alike. Example: **But Marlow was not typical . . . to him the meaning of an episode was not inside like a kernel but outside, enveloping the tale which brought it out only as a glow brings out a haze . . .** (*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad.)

**Anapest.** A foot of poetry with two unaccented syllables followed by one accented syllable. Example: *disengage*.

**Anaphora.** A type of repetition in which the same word or phrase is used at the beginning of two or more sentences or phrases.

**Anecdote.** A brief personal story about an event or experience.

**Antagonist.** A character, institution, group, or force that is in conflict with the protagonist.

**Antihero** – A protagonist who does not have the traditional attributes of a hero.

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