

STAAR Reading Terms – 5th Grade

Group 1:

1. synonyms – words that have similar meanings
2. antonyms - words that have opposite meanings
3. context clues - words or phrases that help give meaning to unknown words
4. expression – a phrase that doesn't mean what it says word for word
5. main idea - what a piece of writing is mostly about
6. important/supporting details - the details in a passage that support, or back up, the main idea (usually tell *who, what, when, where, why, and how*)
7. summary – briefly restates the main idea and important details of a story
8. author – the person who wrote the story or article
9. narrator - the person in a story who tells the story
10. audience – the intended readers for a piece of writing
11. example – an item that is the same as other things in a group
12. multiple-meaning words – words that are spelled the same but have more than one meaning
13. analogy – a comparison that shows a relationship between two things
14. simile – a comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as”
15. metaphor – a comparison of two unlike things NOT using the words “like” or “as”
16. prefix – letters added to the beginning of the word to make a new word
17. suffix – letters added to the end of a word to make a new word
18. root (base) word – the main part of a word

Group 2:

19. characters - the people or animals in a story or poem
20. setting – the time and place that a story happens
21. plot - the series of events that happen in a story
22. conflict (problem) - the trouble that the characters have in a story

23. resolution – how the problem is solved in a story
24. climax – the turning point or point of greatest interest or suspense in a story
25. motivation - the reason a character does or says something
26. trait – all the qualities that make up a character’s appearance and personality
27. theme – is a story’s message, it can be a lesson about life or how people behave (moral)
28. foreshadow – giving clues that suggest what might happen in the future

Group 3:

29. graphic organizers – a way to keep track of information – sometimes in picture form
30. outline – short phrases used to organize information in a story or article (G.O.)
31. venn diagram – two overlapping circles used to compare two things (G.O.)
32. story map – circles connected by lines that show important information from the story (G.O.)
33. time line – a line showing dates in the order that events happened (G.O.)
34. author’s purpose (AP) – the reason the author wrote the story or article
35. AP to entertain – a story or article that you might read for fun (such as a narrative)
36. AP to inform – a story or article that gives information or news
37. AP to explain – giving directions how to do something or why something happened
38. AP to persuade - trying to make the reader believe a certain way, to influence
39. AP to express – to share thoughts and feelings
40. Paired selection – two stories or articles that are meant to be read together to show comparison – similarities and differences
41. Point of view (POV) – how the author sees something (his perspective) and the way a narrator tells a story
42. first-person POV – when a character IN the story tells the story (I, me, my, we, etc.)
43. third-person POV – when someone NOT in the story tells the story, like an invisible observer (he, she, they, etc.)

- 44. third-person limited – a POV in which the narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of a single character
- 45. third-person omniscient – a POV in which the narrators knows the thoughts and feelings of ALL the characters
- 46. text structure – the organization the author uses to show how his ideas are connected
- 47. chronology – a TS showing what happens first, next, and last in a story – sequencing
- 48. cause and effect – a TS showing how one thing leads to another – why something happened and the result
- 49. compare and contrast – a TS showing how two or more things are alike and different

Group 4:

- 50. making predictions – trying to guess what will happen next in a story
- 51. drawing conclusions (conclude)/inference (infer) – trying to figure out things that are not stated based on both the details in the passage and the reader’s own experiences
- 52. fact – a statement that can be proved to be true
- 53. opinion – a statement that cannot be proved (it is what someone THINKS or FEELS)
- 54. text evidence – clues from the text that support inferences and conclusions made by the reader
- 55. supporting an answer – finding a sentence in the story to prove a conclusion

Group 5:

- 56. hyperbole – the deliberate use of exaggeration
- 57. idiom – a saying that cannot be literally translated
- 58. onomatopoeia – a word or phrase that imitates a sound (whoosh)
- 59. personification – giving animals or objects human qualities or characteristics

Group 6:

- 60. genre – a type of writing such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc.
- 61. fiction - a story or article that is made up – not real

- 62. fable – a story that usually has talking animals and teaches a lesson/moral
- 63. fairy tale – a made-up story with imaginary characters and magical events
- 64. folktale – a story that is passed down from one person to another over time
- 65. tall tale – an American hero folktale full of extreme exaggerations
- 66. legend – a story set in a real historic time that is told as if it really happened and as if the characters really lived
- 67. myth – a story from the distant past used to explain why the universe works the way it does (a folktale about gods and goddesses)
- 68. diary/journal - A daily written record of personal incidents, experiences, and ideas (fiction or non-fiction)
- 69. non-fiction – a type of writing that tells about real people, places, things, and events
- 70. auto-biography – something an author has written about his or her OWN life
- 71. biography – something an author has written about the life of another person
- 72. expository text – non-fiction text written to inform, explain, or describe

Group 7:

- 73. text features – ways that a writer gives the reader information (used in non-fiction)
- 74. footnote - A printed note or definition placed below the text at the bottom of the page
- 75. caption – a short description or explanation that gives information about a picture, diagram, photo, or other piece of art
- 76. headings – names given to smaller sections of text
- 77. key words – terms specially used with the topic of the text (usually in italics or bold print)
- 78. diagram – a drawing with labels that shows parts of an object or how something works

Group 8:

- 79. poetry – a type of writing that uses creative language, is written in lines, and often includes rhythm and rhyme
- 80. free verse – a style of poetry that does not follow a specific structure

81. humorous poetry – a type of poem that tells about a funny moment
82. lyric (lyrical) poetry- a type of poem that expresses thoughts and feelings with musical language and does not tell a story
83. narrative poetry – a type of poetry that tells a story
84. concrete poetry – a poem that takes the shape of its topic
85. limerick – a humorous poem that has five lines
86. imagery – words that appeal to the reader’s five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch
87. stanza – a group of lines in poetry
88. rhyme – the effect when two or more words end with a similar sound
89. rhythm – a pattern of sounds in a line
90. rhyme pattern (scheme) – the pattern of rhymes in a poem
91. meter – the pattern of rhythm in a poem
92. repetition – repeating words or lines

Group 9:

93. drama – a kind of writing meant to be performed on stage, by actors, features dialogue and stage directions
94. act – a major division of a drama, made up of scenes
95. actors – the people who perform the parts of different characters in a play
96. cast of characters – a list of characters who appear in a drama
97. dialogue – the words characters or actors say to each other
98. scene – part of an act in a drama. Each scene is set in a different time or place.
99. Stage directions – the written instructions in a drama that tell the actors what to do
100. Props – items on the stage that the actors use
101. Aside – something said by a character in a drama meant only for the audience to hear

THINGS TO TEACH in 5th, but do not add to list:

Figurative language

Alliteration

Appeals to emotion

Antagonist

Protagonist

Commercial

Contradictory statement

Falling action

Generalization

End rhyme

Internal rhyme

Misleading statement

Proverb

Rising action

tone

Consonance?

Assonance?

