Novel Introduction Key Terms

**Exposition**- The background of a story usually presented at the beginning in order to understand the story properly.

**Foreshadowing**- Hints of what is to come in the action of a play or a story

**Suspense**- Nervous uncertainty; tension.

**Rising Action**- The events in a conflict that lead to a climax.

**Climax**- The point where forces in conflict meet; turning point.

**Falling Action**- The conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist unravels, with the protagonist winning or losing against the antagonist; events that occur after the climax has been reached.

**Resolution**- When the falling action unwinds to conclusion—all ends are tied.

**Dénouement**- When the falling action unwinds to conclusion—all ends are tied; another word for the resolution

**Characterization**- The way in which an author presents and defines characters.

**Direct Characterization**- When the writer makes direct statements about a character’s personality and tells what the character is like.

**Indirect Characterization**- When the writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character’s thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

**S.T.E.A.L.**- An acronym indicating what to look for when finding indirect characterization: Speech, Thoughts, Effects on others, Actions, Looks.

**Narrator**- The voice that relates, or tells, the events; the speaker.

**Conflict**- A struggle between two or more forces.

**Man v. Man Conflict**- An external conflict where a character has an argument, disagreement, struggle, or other type of problem with another character.

**Man v. Nature Conflict**- An external conflict where a character has a problem with outside forces in nature such as weather, animals, and land.

**Man v. Society Conflict**- An external conflict where a character encounters a struggle with the laws or beliefs of a group.
**Man v. Himself Conflict** - An internal conflict where the character struggles deciding what to do or think.

**Chronological Order** - The arrangement of events following one after another in time.

**Implied Setting** - The time and place of the story suggested by clues within the text.

**Stated Setting** - The time and place of the story clearly stated in the text.

**Cultural Context** - Understanding the behaviors, beliefs, and characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group that may be relevant to understanding the meaning of the story.

**Historical Context** - Understanding the political and social events of a time period that may be relevant to understanding the meaning of the story.

**Historical Fiction** - A type of literary genre that tells a story that is set in the past. The setting is usually real and drawn from history, and often contains actual historical persons, but the main characters tend to be fictional.

**Protagonist** - The main character of story.

**Antagonist** - The person or force that opposes the main character.

**Point of View** - The perspective of a narrator.

**First Person** - The point of view where the narrator uses the pronoun "I."

**Third Person** - The point of view where the narrator uses the pronouns "he," "she," "it" or "they."

**Omniscient** - The point of view where the narrator is “all-knowing” or sees and hears everything.

**Theme** - The meaning behind story.

**Tone** - The attitude of the writer conveyed through writing.

**Dialect** - A particular form of a language or accent that is peculiar to a specific region or social group.

**Dialogue** - Conversations between or among characters.

**Plot** - The sequence of events in a story.