

Year 6 English: Christmas Storytelling Techniques

Learning objective: To identify and understand key literary devices and structural elements used in festive narrative writing.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of narrative structure and descriptive writing. Flip to the answer to check your understanding.

What is 'Atmosphere' in a Christmas story?

The mood or feeling created by the author, often using descriptions of light, cold, or warmth to evoke a festive setting.

Define 'Personification' with a winter example.

Giving human qualities to non-human things, such as 'The wind whistled a lonely carol through the frozen trees.'

What is the 'Climax' of a traditional Christmas story?

The most intense or exciting point of the narrative, often where the main problem reaches its peak before being solved.

Explain the term 'Sensory Imagery'.

Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to help the reader imagine the festive scene.

What is the purpose of 'Foreshadowing'?

A literary device where the author gives hints or clues about what will happen later in the story to build anticipation.

Write a sentence using a 'Relative Clause' about a Christmas market.

Example: 'The Christmas market, which was decorated with thousands of twinkling lights, bustled with happy shoppers.'

Define 'Protagonist'.

The main character in the story who drives the plot forward, such as a child discovering a magical secret on Christmas Eve.

What is a 'Metaphor' in descriptive writing?

A figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true but helps explain an idea, e.g., 'The snow was a white blanket covering the village.'

What is the 'Resolution' of a story?

The final part of the narrative where the conflicts are settled and the story is brought to a close.

Give an example of an 'Adverbial Phrase' for a winter setting.

A phrase that describes how, when, or where something happens, e.g., 'With a joyful skip, she ran towards the glowing fireplace.'

What is 'Dialogue' and why is it important in stories?

The conversation between characters; it helps reveal personality and moves the plot forward.

Explain 'Show, Don't Tell'.

A technique where an author describes an action or emotion rather than naming it, e.g., describing shivering teeth instead of just saying 'the character was cold'.