

Subject terminology	Example
Personification: giving human characteristics to something that is non-human.	<i>"The distorted adjoining houses looked as if they had twisted themselves to peep down at me."</i>
Simile: a descriptive technique that compares two things using the words 'as' or 'like'.	<i>"The skylight was eccentrically pitched like a broken head."</i>
Metaphor: a descriptive technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.	<i>"Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, or they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts."</i>
Semantic field: a set of words that are related in meaning.	<i>"Patches of <u>tinder</u> yet <u>alight</u> were floating in the <u>smoky</u> air, which, a moment ago, had been her faded bridal dress...she had been in <u>flames</u>, or that the <u>flames</u> were out, until I saw the patches of tinder that had been her garments, no longer <u>alight</u> but falling in a <u>black shower</u> around us."</i>
Setting: the place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.	<i>"The dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with dykes and mounds and gates, with scattered cattle feeding on it, was the marshes; and that the low leaden line beyond, was the river; and that the distant savage lair from which the wind was rushing, was the sea."</i>
Pathetic fallacy: a type of personification where emotions are given to a setting, an object or the weather.	<i>"It was a rimy morning, and very damp. I had seen the damp lying on the outside of my little window, as if some goblin had been crying there all night."</i>
Pathos: a quality that creates pity or sadness.	<i>"I had been so innocent and little there, and all beyond was so unknown and great, that in a moment with a strong heave and sob I broke into tears."</i>
Characterisation: the creation or construction and description of a fictional character.	<i>"My sister, Mrs. Joe Gargery, was more than twenty years older than I, and had established a great reputation with herself and the neighbours because she had brought me up 'by hand.'"</i>
Action: the method that fiction writers use to show what is happening at any given moment in the story.	<i>"That I got them off, closed with her, threw her down, and got them over her; that I dragged the great cloth from the table for the same purpose, and with it dragged down the heap of rottenness in the midst, and all the ugly things that sheltered there; that we were on the ground struggling like desperate enemies."</i>
Dialogue: a conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or film.	<i>"What do you play, boy?" asked Estella of myself, with the greatest disdain. "Nothing but beggar my neighbour, miss." "Beggar him," said Miss Havisham to Estella.</i>
Grotesque: focuses on the human body, and all the ways that it can be distorted or exaggerated; its aim is to make us feel both empathy and disgust at the same time.	<i>"Without this arrest of everything, this standing still of all the pale decayed objects, not even the withered bridal dress on the collapsed form could have looked so like grave-clothes, or the long veil so like a shroud. So she sat, corpse-like, as we played at cards."</i>
Imagery: a technique in which the author appeals to the senses i.e. sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell.	<i>"I left my fairy godmother, with both her hands on her crutch stick, standing in the midst of the dimly lighted room beside the rotten bridecake that was hidden in cobwebs."</i>
Listing: when the writer includes several words/ phrases/ ideas, one after the other.	<i>"I saw the steersman of the galley lay his hand on his prisoner's shoulder, and saw that both boats were swinging round with the force of the tide, and saw that all hands on board the steamer were running forward quite frantically."</i>
Repetition: when a word/ phrase is noticeably repeated throughout a sentence/ paragraph/ whole text.	<i>"Still, in the same moment, I saw the prisoner start up, lean across his captor, and pull the cloak from the neck of the shrinking sinner in the galley. Still in the same moment... Still, in the same moment..."</i>
Narrative perspective: the point of view from which the story is told. In the case of 'Great Expectations', Pip is the narrator so Dickens is using a first person narrative perspective.	<i>"My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip."</i>

HT4 'Great Expectations' - Vocabulary List

Word	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
1. Wretched	To be in a very unhappy or unfortunate state of mind or being.	<i>Lying in bed with a cold, she felt wretched.</i>	
2. Vengeance	The punishing of someone for harming you or your friends or family, or the wish for such punishment to happen.	<i>Martha waited for the moment to unleash her vengeance on her former friend.</i>	
3. Eternity	Time that never ends or has no limits.	<i>Standing on the edge of the pier, the sky and sea seemed to meet somewhere in eternity.</i>	
4. Blight	A disease that damages and kills plants. Or Something that spoils or has a very bad effect on something, often for a long time.	<i>The detention was a blight on the student's perfect record.</i>	
5. Perilous	A situation that is extremely dangerous and full of risk.	<i>The walk along the cliff was beautiful but also perilous.</i>	
6. Precarious	In a dangerous state because of not being safe or not being held in place firmly.	<i>The girl placed her favourite toy in a precarious position on the shelf.</i>	
7. Grievously	Something that is done very seriously, or done in a way that causes great pain and suffering.	<i>The man was convicted after grievously beating the cyclist.</i>	
8. Ghastly	Unpleasant and shocking.	<i>The traffic on the way home was a ghastly nightmare.</i>	
9. Incredulous	Unwilling or unable to believe something or someone.	<i>The teacher stood, incredulous at the behaviour of the class.</i>	
10. Spectral	Of, or like, a ghost.	<i>He awoke suddenly in the night to see a spectral light coming from downstairs.</i>	
11. Despairingly	The feeling that there is no hope and that you can do nothing to improve a difficult or worrying situation.	<i>Despairingly, she watched as her children destroyed the living room she had just tidied.</i>	

12. Resentment	A feeling of anger because you have been forced to accept something that you do not like.	<i>After the argument, the sisters sat, full of resentment about each other.</i>	
13. Brooding	Feeling sad, worried, or angry for a long time. <i>Or</i> Something that appears to be darkly menacing and frightening.	<i>The storm in the distance left the family brooding over their spoilt picnic.</i>	
14. Solemnly	Seriously and without humour.	<i>The figure solemnly stood, casting a long dark shadow.</i>	
15. Inferno	A large uncontrolled fire.	<i>Inside, the boy was a raging inferno of emotions.</i>	
16. Frantically	Done in a hurried way and in a state of excitement or confusion.	<i>After hearing his mother was coming, he frantically tidied up the remains of last night's party.</i>	
17. Soothe	To make (something unpleasant or intense) less serious or severe.	<i>She soothed her friend's sadness with words of kindness.</i>	
18. Nostalgia	A feeling of pleasure and also slight sadness when you think about things that happened in the past.	<i>Looking at the family photos, she felt overwhelmed by nostalgia.</i>	
19. Indescribable	Something that is almost impossible to describe, usually because it is so strange, or terrible, or wonderful.	<i>The feeling of nervous anticipation was indescribable for the groom as he stood at the altar.</i>	
20. Relinquished	To give up something such as a responsibility or claim.	<i>The defeated king relinquished the crown after the battle.</i>	