**Lit Terms Vocabulary List 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literary Term** | **Definition** | **Example of its use in Literature** | **Student Example** |
| Deus ex Machina |  | “The Lord, the God of your fathers . . . appeared to me and said: I have watched over you . . . and I have promised to bring you up out of your misery.” Exodus, The Holy Bible. |  |
| Allusion |  | “When he calls to me, I am ready. I’ll wash his feet with my hair if he needs.” *Judas* by Lady Gaga (alluding to Mary Magdalene who washed the feet of Jesus with her hair). |  |
| Epithet |  | “The grey-eyed goddess Athena answered, ‘Down from the skies I come to check your rage if only you will yield.’” *The Odyssey* by Homer |  |
| Nemesis |  | The monster Victor Frankenstein creates becomes his nemesis.  Harry Potter acts as the nemesis to Lord Voldemort. |  |
| Archetype |  | The heroic figure. Famous archetypal heroes include Luke Skywalker, Simba, Katniss Everdeen, Harry Potter, and Tris Prior. |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literary Term** | **Definition** | **Example of its use in Literature** | **Student Example** |
| Hubris |  | According to Satan: “Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.” “Paradise Lost” by John Milton |  |
| Apostrophe |  | “Death be not proud, though some have called thee mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so.” “Death be Not Proud” by John Donne |  |
| Hyperbole |  | “I had to wait in the station 10 days—an eternity.” *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad |  |
| Litotes |  | “It isn’t very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain.” *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger |  |
| Imagery |  | “On every rail and gate, wet lay clammy; and the marsh mist was so thick, that the wooden finger on the post directing people to our village . . . was invisible to me until I was quite close under it.” *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens |  |