



Glossary of Terms for Dailies

Literature Terms

adage - a traditional saying or proverb

The first thing you learn in life is you're a fool. the last thing you learn in life is you're the same fool" (Bradbury 62).

alliteration - a figure of speech formed by repeating the same initial consonant sound in several words in close succession

"boys, behave" (Bradbury 4)

allusion - a reference in a story to the proper name of a character, thing, or setting from another literary work or from real life

It's not as if I were Scarlett O'Hara and you were Rhett Butler.
(The author is referring to the fictional characters in *Gone with the Wind*.)

assonance - a figure of speech in which the same accented vowel is repeated through several words in succession

"trunks of junk" (Bradbury 76)

conflict - a struggle between opposing forces

external - between two characters or forces (e.g., protagonist vs. antagonist; character vs. the elements)

"Suddenly she spun her green, gnarled finger at me. 'You!' she snarled, her eyes wide. 'And your name is?'

'Jabari,' I gasped, still in shock that she had picked me.

'You will read the first two paragraphs and answer the sample question. Aloud!'

"The air became as still as death. The entire room seemed to stare down on me as I began to read." (Jabari)

(The protagonist is being singled out by the "creature teacher"; the conflict is between the teacher and the student.)

internal - struggle within a character (e.g., a character's coming to terms with the fact that he or she is not "like everyone else")

"And then there's me, my legs twisted around each other, my nails gnawed to a nub, my hands clammy—with forehead and underarms to match—trying unsuccessfully to figure out where I was when God passed out instant recall. There's so much injustice to this system. There's so much I know that I won't be able to express today."
(Mary)

(The protagonist is taking a college entrance exam and is worried that she will not be able to answer all the questions correctly; the conflict is between the protagonist and herself, what she perceives to be her weakness—instant recall.)

hyperbole - an exaggeration for effect

"He hit the rug so hard all the dust of five thousand centuries jumped from the shocked texture" (Bradbury 66).

imagery - the use of sensory words (sight, sound, smell, taste, feel) to describe an object or person

"And he heard a thousand people in another sunlight, and the faint, tinkling music of an organ grinder playing 'La Marimba' - oh, a lovely, dancing tune" (Bradbury 133).

inference - a conclusion based on a premise

"Douglas moved his right hand stealthily to the ticking, pulled out the watch stem. He set the hands back" (Bradbury 107).

(Readers can infer that Douglas did not want his friend, John Huff, to move so he set the hand of his watch to avoid facing reality.)

irony - the opposite of what is expected

"More than once he (the junkman) had delivered babies at four in the morning and only then had people noticed how incredibly clean his hands and fingernails were - the hands of a rich man...." (Bradbury 208).

(It is ironic that Mr. Jonas, the junk man, the man who deals in people's discards and rejects, had "incredibly clean" hands, those of a "rich man.")

literary apostrophe - an address to someone not present, or to a personified object or idea.

"I don't want to die! Douglas screamed, without a sound. You'll have to anyway, said the voice, you'll have to anyway..." (Bradbury 189).

metaphor - comparison between two unlike things not using "like" or "as"

explicit - a metaphor that uses a "be" verb (i.e., is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being)

"The words were summer on the tongue" (Bradbury 13).

implicit - a metaphor that is implied rather than stated, one that does not use a "be" verb.

"...a great swelling symphony of lawn mowers..." (Bradbury 48)

metonymy - a figure of speech in which one word is substituted for another associated with it

We are studying Shakespeare.

(We are not studying "Shakespeare" but, in fact, Shakespeare's works.)

paradox - a seemingly contradictory statement that, on closer examination, may be true

"Leo Auffman was too busy noticing that the room was falling swiftly upward" (Bradbury 55).

personification - giving human attributes to something nonhuman

"dead cement" (Bradbury 19)

"...for last year's pair (of tennis shoes) were dead inside" (Bradbury 20).

simile - a comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as"

"He made careful stacks of nickels, dimes, and quarters on the counter, like someone playing chess" (Bradbury 22).

symbol - something that stands for more than just itself

"...you need Old Colonel Freeleigh to shove and say look alive so you remember every second!" (Bradbury 89).

(Colonel Freeleigh is symbolic of the Time Machine because he takes boys back through time by telling them stories of his past.)

theme - the main idea; the lesson learned

"Time hypnotizes" (Bradbury 75)

tone - (author's attitude toward his/her work); **mood** (reader's response to the work)

" 'I wish your father was home,' said Mother....The Lonely One's around again. Killing people" (Bradbury 40-41).

(Frightening tone and mood)

Grammar Terms

coordinate adjective - two or more adjectives modifying the same noun require a comma to separate them

Last there was a cold, stinging wind.

interrupter (parenthetical phrase) - a group of words that interrupts the "train of thought" requires commas to set it off from the main clause.

My mother, on the other hand, was a prolific reader.

subjunctive mood - a mood of a verb used to express uncertainty, a wish, or an unlikely condition

If I were rich, I could travel anywhere.

Writing Terms

hyphenated modifier - use a hyphen between words used as a one-thought modifier immediately before a noun

She gave me that go-to-your-room look.

character sketch - a brief picture of a character painted with words. The author may choose actions, speech, inner thoughts and feelings, what others say, and/or environment.

"He could jump six-foot orchard walls, swing up branches faster and come down, fat with peaches, quicker than anyone else in the gang. He ran laughing. He sat easy. He was not a bully. He was kind" (Bradbury 102).

vignette - a small literary sketch; a slice of life

In *Dandelion Wine*, when Great-grandma is dying, she calls her family to her death bed and tells them that they are not to worry about her impending death. Her recounting of her life is a perfect example of a vignette or slice of life.

Methods of Sentence Combining

Independent Clause - a sentence having a subject and verb

My knees were shaking. I walked to the principal's office.

Compound Sentence - two independent clauses separated by a comma and a conjunction

My knees were shaking, and I walked to the principal's office.

Adjective Clause - a dependent clause (one that cannot stand alone) that modifies a noun or pronoun in an independent clause; adjective clauses usually begin with words such as "who," "whom," "which," or "that."

My knees, that had felt like rubber, suddenly stopped shaking when I entered the principal's office.

Adverb Clause - a dependent clause that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb in an independent clause; adverb clauses usually begin with words such as "when," "since," "if," "because," "after," etc.

When I walked into the principal's office, my knees started to shake.

Participial Phrase - a verb phrase used as an adjective to modify a noun or a pronoun. Participial phrases can be present (using an "-ing") or past (using an "-ed").

Shaking in the knees, I walked into the principal's office.

Noun Absolute - a noun that has no grammatical function in the sentence in that it is not the subject, direct or indirect object, predicate nominative, or object of the preposition; a noun absolute is followed by a present or a past participial phrase

My knees shaking, I walked into the principal's office.
(The noun absolute is "knees.")

All quoted material is from:
Bradbury, Ray. *Dandelion Wine*. New York: Bantam, 1990.

Glossary of Terms is from:
Ledbetter, Mary Ellen. *Ready-to-Use English Workshop Activities for Grades 6-12: 180 Daily Lessons Integrating Literature, Writing & Grammar Skills*. Paramus, NJ: The Center for Applied Research in Education, 2002.