ESL BO - Key Terminology (words) in Literature (Glossary)

Literature is a written work of art.

Author is the person who writes a piece of literature.

Fiction is literature in the form of prose, especially short stories and novels, that describes imaginary events and people. The stories are from the imagination of the writer.

The characters in a piece of literature are the key people (in some cases animals, monster, aliens, etc.) that you meet. They do the talking, thinking, and action.

Main character also called the protagonist(s) is the character who the author features as the most important.

The setting(s) of a fiction piece of literature is the place and time that is featured in a story, novel, play, movie, television show, cartoon, etc.

The Plot of a Story is the main events of a play, novel, movie, or similar work, that the author creates to show that there is a series of events that happen in the story.

Plot Structure – a Story usually has a beginning (intro.), middle and an end.

Short Story is a fictional writing piece

Novel is a fictional writing piece that is longer (100 plus words). It has many chapters with many events, characters and a longer plot than a short story)

Poems are short fiction but written in a flow of words like a song or the way a person speaks.

A poem may rhyme meaning each line ends in the same sound (eg. sleep, peep, heap, reap, keep etc.)

A stanza is when a poet puts a group of lines in a poem are put together in one set of lines. For example in early Greek and Latin poems there are four lines together, then four lines together, then four lines together, etc.

The rhythm of a poem or musical piece is called meter.

Inference means that the author writes something that you understand without the author explaining it all. The author tells you some things, actions, ideas etc. but you need to also imagine what the author is not telling you.

Micro Fiction – is VERY SHORT fiction. Eg. a story in 100 letters, A poem that is only four lines, a play that is 1 minute long, etc.