

## Three Useful Literary Terms (7-11)

Study the definitions of three different ways of using words that you may encounter in your reading. Then, write your answers to the questions concerning the examples following each.

A. **hyperbole:** obvious exaggeration that is intended for effect; an extravagant statement not meant to be taken literally; another type of figure of speech. **Example:** *“I’ve been waiting here for an eternity.”*

**Directions:** In the blank space after each example of hyperbole, write the key word or words creating a hyperbolic effect.

1. Toussaint, the most unhappy man of men! — William Wordsworth  
Key word or words of hyperbole: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The atrocious crime of being a young man . . . I shall neither attempt to palliate or deny. — William Penn, Earl of Chatman  
Key word or words of hyperbole: \_\_\_\_\_
3. “This was the most unkindest cut of all . . .” said by Mark Antony of the stab wound given Julius Caesar by his supposed friend, Brutus. — *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare  
Key word or words of hyperbole: \_\_\_\_\_
4. These, in the day when heaven was falling,  
The hour when earth’s foundation fled . . .  
. . . took their wages and are dead. — “Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries” by A.E. Housman  
Key word or words of hyperbole: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. **apostrophe:** to address or speak directly to a personified thing or idea; also to directly address someone or something not present. **Example:** *Rain, rain, go away. Come again some other day!* Words of direct address are “Rain, rain.”

**Directions:** In the blank space, write the key word or words used in direct address, which thereby show apostrophe.

1. O, World, I cannot hold thee close enough. — Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Key word or words showing apostrophe: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age of Gold, I bid thee come  
To this Earth, was erst thy home! — Pietro Metastasio  
Key word or words showing apostrophe: \_\_\_\_\_

## (7-11 continued)

3. Western wind, when will thou blow  
The small rain down can rain? — Anonymous

Key word or words showing apostrophe: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean, roll! — George Gordon, Lord Byron

Key word or words showing apostrophe: \_\_\_\_\_

C. **ambiguous:** having two or more possible meanings or interpretations, with the correct choice difficult to determine. Some *ambiguity* is intentional and is meant to mislead the reader or hearer. **Example:** *Do I turn left here? Right!*

**Directions:** In the first blank spaces, write the ambiguous word or words; then explain the double meaning that creates the ambiguity.

1. Give me a ring sometime.

(1) Ambiguous word or words: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Cause of ambiguity: \_\_\_\_\_

2. "I ran into someone you know today," the teenager told his mother when he came home after borrowing her car.

(1) Ambiguous word or words: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Cause of ambiguity: \_\_\_\_\_

3. "She told me to pass it to her, and I did," explained the quarterback who got in trouble for throwing a book at the teacher.

(1) Ambiguous word or words: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Cause of ambiguity: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I never tell the truth, I always lie.

(1) Ambiguous word or words: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Cause of ambiguity: \_\_\_\_\_