English Key Stage 3 Reading Technical Knowledge Organiser

The technical terms build upon each other, so don't just use the terms from the Stage for which you are aiming. ie To get "Accurate", you would also need to show you can use some "Clear" terms.

Language Terms

Accurate

- **connotations:** the ideas or feelings a word produces not its dictionary meaning
- **metaphor:** a figure of speech which is not literal *eg the moon was a polished disk of silver*
- **personification:** giving human characteristics to something not human *eg winter played its icy fingers on the trees*
- **theme:** a main idea which runs through the test *eg love, nature, conflict*
- **tone:** the attitude or mood of the text *eg an aggressive tone, a depressed tone*
- **noun phrase:** a group of words doing the same job as a noun eg "the ancient house near the river" not just "house"
- **alliteration:** *repeating the same consonant sound at the start of words eg **b**roken **b**attered **b**oats in the **b**ay*
- **oxymoron:** a phrase where the two ideas seem to contradict each other *eg massive dwarf, tiny giant, dark light.*
- **sentence type: declarative** (statements), **interrogative** (questions), **imperative** (orders/requests), **exclamative** (What a goal!)
- **emotive language:** designed to arouse an emotional response
- **hyperbole:** exaggeration for effect
- **subjective / objective adjectives:** subjective adjectives show opinions, objective adjective show factual information

Clear

- **lexical choice:** a more academic way of saying "individual word choice" *eg the lexical choice of "tiger" has connotations of power and danger.* Doesn't include grammar words like the, a, on, and etc.
- **simile:** when the writer says something is like or as something else *eg as vicious as a shark.*
- **nouns:** names for people, things, place and ideas *eg John, tree, sea, love.*
- **adjectives:** word which describe or change nouns *eg green, horrible, gigantic.*
- **verbs:** words for actions *eg run, live, think, struggled.*
- **adverbs:** words which add to verbs (often ending in –ly) *eg slowly, carefully, painfully.*
- **rhetorical questions:** questions used to emphasise a point rather than genuinely ask for a response.
- **onomatopoeia:** sound effect words *eg pop, crack, sizzle*
- **harsh / soft sounds:** *eg t, ck b, p are often harsh sounding; l, m, s, f are often soft*

Structure Terms

Accurate

- **foreshadowing:** when the text gives hints or warnings of what will come later
- **tension:** creating an emotional strain for the reader
- **suspense:** anxiety about what will happen next
- **contrasts:** parts of the text contrasting with other parts
- **opening / middle / ending:** being able to discuss the choices a writer has made in structuring their text
- **focus:** the main topic at any given part of the text *eg the focus in the opening is on the gloomy setting*
- **chapter breaks:** why end a chapter of a novel in a particular place? Emotive impact? Suspense?

Clear

- **stanzas:** POETRY ONLY proper names for the verses/paragraphs of a poem
- **repetition:** usually used to emphasise something
- **Lists:** what are they used to emphasise or help the reader with?

Form Terms

Accurate

- **first person:** the reasons for choosing *I, me, my, our...*
- **third person:** the reasons for choosing *he, she, Oliver, them...*
- **reported speech:** when dialogue is summarised without "speech marks"; *eg he told me about his holiday*
- **poetic form:** POETRY ONLY the structure of the poem *(eg length of lines, rhythms, rhymes)* but also the type *(eg sonnet, elegy, ballad)*
- **setting:** where and when the text is set
- **authorial intention:** the ideas and/or emotions the text is trying to present
- **point of view:** first person (I/we), second person (you), third person (she/it)

Clear

- **dialogue:** speech between characters in a text
- **direct speech:** is speech with "speech marks"
- **headline:** in newspapers and magazine, the eye-catching title
- **rhyme:** POETRY ONLY repetition of similar sounds
- **rhythm:** POETRY ONLY created by stressed and unstressed syllables; some poems have regular rhythm, others do not
- **narrator / speaker:** the voice/person saying the words in the text

Language Terms

Exceptional

- **synaesthesia:** a figure of speech where one sense is used to help describe another; *eg the cold silence, the screaming red, the delicious green, the silent sun*
- **extended metaphor:** a metaphor which continues in a pattern through a text, rather than just a one off example

Convincing

- **pathetic fallacy:** when writers use setting (especially weather) to match the emotions of the characters *eg she wept bitterly as the rain cam down around her.*
- **pathos:** feelings of pity or sadness
- **trope:** a literary device, often repeated through the text
- **modality:** how certain the text is about its subject *eg It will happen, the change must come, the army should definitely come*

Adventurous

- **juxtaposition:** when two ideas or words are put next to each other to emphasise their difference *eg the violent storm came down on the silent village.*
- **symbol:** an object which represents an idea on a deeper level *eg a rose might symbolise love*
- **semantic field:** a group of words within a text which are related to the same topic *eg The lion growled at the man, its eyes full of menace, hatred tightening its powerful muscles.* = Semantic field of threat and anger.
- **abstract nouns:** nouns which refer to ideas (*eg peace, equality, justice*) or emotions/feelings (*eg love, hatred, pleasure*)
- **dynamic / stative verbs:** dynamic verbs are for actions (*eg run, punch, walk*) while stative verbs are for mental activities (*eg think, remember, regret*)
- **ambiguity:** when something in the text is open to more than one interpretation, it becomes ambiguous; this could be intentional from the writer
- **oxymoron:** a phrase where the words next to each other seem to contradict; *eg the tiny giant, the burning cold, a painful pleasure.*
- **sibilance:** the hissing sound from "s" (and sometimes "c" and "z")
- **plosives:** the sound from "d", "b" and "g" and "t", "k" and "p"
- **assonance:** repeating a vowel sound *eg the bad man*

Structure Terms

Exceptional

- **anti-climax:** when there is a build up to an expected climax—which fails to happen
- **denouement:** when a complicated plot is finally resolved and concluded

Convincing

- **exposition:** the part of the text which introduces the setting, characters and theme for what is to follow
- **cumulative effect:** when a series of actions or repeated reference to the same idea creates a build up
- **narrative gap:** when a writer misses out part of a series of events, leaving the reader to fill the gap themselves
- **enjambement:** POETRY ONLY when there is no stop at the end of the line, it runs into the next line
- **cohesion:** the way a writer makes the ideas in the text glue together

Adventurous

- **pivotal moment:** the crucial turning point in the text
- **foreshadowing:** when an event or detail hints forward to a later event or detail
- **climax:** the point of highest tension in the text
- **develops the idea:** takes the idea and offers more detail
- **narrows the focus:** zooms in on a particular topic or detail
- **chronology:** the order events happen—which might *not* be the order the writer chooses to tell you them
- **links:** patterns of connections between details and events in the text
- **juxtaposition:** putting two contrasting things together
- **cumulative effect:** an effect which builds up/increases through the text
- **enjambement:** POETRY ONLY when the sentence in a line of poetry runs over into the next
- **caesura:** POETRY ONLY a pause in the middle of a line of poetry, rather than at the end
- **dialogue:** "speech" in the poem
- **free verse:** poetry with no set patterns of rhythm or rhyme
- **blank verse:** poetry with a set rhythm but no rhyme
- **paragraph length:** does the length/shortness of the paragraph add to emphasis?

Form Terms

Exceptional

- **unreliable narrator:** when the narrative comes from a figure whom we do not fully trust

Convincing

- **limited point of view:** a narrator who does not know everything
- **omniscient:** a narrator who is all-knowing
- **stylistic features of genre:** aspects which borrow from horror, romance, fables, fairy tales, tragedy etc.
- **impact of verse forms:** POETRY ONLY how the form of the poem affects meaning, particularly by using a ballad form, sonnet, free verse etc.

Adventurous

- **narrative voice:** the character of the person telling us things.
- **meter:** POETRY ONLY a set rhythm though the poem
- **characterisation:** the methods used to present a character (*eg description, dialogue, others' comments*)
- **allusion:** when the text refers to people, stories etc. outside of itself
- **narrative perspective:** who is telling the story and how does this affect how it is told?
- **dramatic irony:** when we as readers understand things better than the characters in the actual text

REMEMBER

Spotting the device is not the important part: it's being able to say **why** it is used and what its **impact** is upon the reader.