**Shakespeare Literary Terms**

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| Oxymoron | Soliloquy | Prologue | Sonnet |
| Prose | Anachronism | Verbal Irony | Tragedy |
| Dramatic Irony | Blank Verse | Drama | Aside |
| Comic Relief | Couplet | Pun | Monologue |

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| **Term** | **Description** |
|  | A story written to be acted for an audience |
|  | A play, novel, or other narrative that depicts serious and important events in which the main character comes to an unhappy end |
|  | A short introduction at the beginning of a play that gives a brief overview of the plot |
|  | Fourteen-line lyric poem that is usually written in iambic pentameter and that has one of several rhyme schemes (Shakespearean-3 four-line units or quatrains, followed by a concluding two-line unit, or couplet; abab cdcd efef gg) |
|  | Direct, unadorned form of language, written or spoken, in ordinary use |
|  | Event or detail that is inappropriate for the time period |
|  | A writer or speaker says one thing, but really means something completely different |
|  | The audience or reader knows something important that a character in a play or story does not know |
|  | A speech by one character in a play |
|  | An unusually long speech in which a character who is on stage alone expresses his or her thoughts aloud |
|  | A combination of contradictory terms (EX: jumbo shrimp) |
|  | Words that are spoken by a character in a play to the audience or to another character but that are not supposed to be overheard by the others onstage |
|  | A play on the multiple meanings of a word, or on two words that sound alike but have different meanings |
|  | Humour added that lessens the seriousness of a plot |
|  | Poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter (“pent”=5; “meter”=measure); each line of poetry contains 5 iambs, or metrical feet, that consist of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable |
|  | Two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme; couplets often signal the EXIT of a character or end of a scene |