APPLYING means using your previous knowledge in new situations.

CLASSIFYING means categorizing things according to certain criteria.
For example, we can classify (categorize) characters in a story according to their opinions and values.

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING means:
• finding similarities between two or more things (comparing).
• finding differences between two or more things (contrasting).
• drawing conclusions based on these similarities and differences.
For example, we can compare and contrast the themes in two pieces of literature. Or we can compare and contrast the characters in the same or different stories: their beliefs, backgrounds, problems, conflicts, etc.

DISTINGUISHING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES means:
• identifying different points of view within a text.
  For example, you might be asked how different characters respond to a certain event in the story or how your understanding of the characters’ actions changes as you read the story.
• identifying different points of view among the readers of a text.
  For example, you might be asked to explain how your understanding of a character or event is different from another student’s.

EVALUATING means:
• making judgments about different aspects of the text and justifying your opinion.
  For example, you may be asked to explain why a character is believable, why the resolution of the conflict is satisfying or why the story is a good one.
• explaining someone else’s opinion.
  For example, you may need to consider whether or not you agree with another person’s opinion and why.
EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT means:

- identifying the reasons why things happen (the cause).
- identifying and describing the result (the effect) of specific actions or circumstances.
- explaining the connection between the two.

For example:

George ran out of patience, so he quit school.

\[\text{cause} \quad \text{effect}\]

George was ashamed because he hadn’t finished school.

\[\text{effect} \quad \text{cause}\]

EXPLAINING PATTERNS means identifying and explaining different patterns in the text and saying why these patterns are important.

For example, you may be asked why certain words or lines are repeated, or where the rhyme scheme of a poem changes and why. Or you may be asked what behavior a character repeats and why this is important.

GENERATING POSSIBILITIES means going beyond the text and creating something new, based on your understanding of the text.

For example, you may be asked to suggest a continuation of the story or to create a new character or event that influences the development or ending of the story.

IDENTIFYING PARTS AND WHOLE means:

- recognizing the separate parts that form a whole piece of literature, for example, the stanzas of a poem or the acts of a play.
- explaining how the parts work together within the whole text.

For example, you may be asked how the title relates to different parts of the text or how the ending contributes to an understanding of the entire text.

INFERRING means “reading between the lines” to understand information that is not explicitly stated.

For example, a character’s actions or words may lead us to understand that the character is angry, afraid, etc. without the author actually saying so.

MAKING CONNECTIONS means:

- finding connections between different aspects of the text.

For example, you may be asked how the setting of the story influences the character’s behavior.
• explaining how factual information (biographical, historical or cultural) is reflected in the text.

For example, you may be asked to explain how the text reflects actual events in the author’s life, or how learning about the historical / cultural context in which the story takes place affects your understanding of the text.

PREDICTING means using the available information to guess what the content or the outcome (ending) of the text will be, either before or while reading it.

For example, you may be asked how you think a certain character will react or how you think the story will end.

PROBLEM SOLVING means:
• identifying a problem and its solution, or
• identifying a problem and suggesting a solution of your own, based on the available information.

For example, you may be asked to define what the character’s problem is and how he or she solves / could solve it.

SEQUENCING means:
• putting events in the correct chronological order (they are not always presented chronologically in literature).
• explaining how the sequence of events affects your understanding of the text.

For example, flashbacks to earlier events can help you understand the character’s present behavior.

SYNTHESIZING means taking different aspects of a text or various insights into a text and combining them to form an integrated whole.

For example, when we summarize a story we are synthesizing. Likewise, we are synthesizing when we consider how information we learn later in a story changes our understanding of a character, issue or conflict.

UNCOVERING MOTIVES means:
• identifying motives (reasons) for the character’s behavior.
• supporting this with evidence from the text.

For example, you may be asked why a character acted in a certain way and to explain what information in the text led you to think so.
APPENDIX OF LITERARY TERMS

The **antagonist** is a character or force that is in conflict with the main character (the protagonist).

A **character** is a person (or a thing presented as a person) in a literary text. In a novel there are major and minor characters. The major characters are the most important characters in the novel. The minor characters are less developed; they help advance the plot and support the major characters.

**Characterization** is the way a writer presents characters in a story. This may include the characters’ appearance, actions, words, thoughts and the way the other characters relate to them.

The **climax** is the moment when the crisis reaches its greatest intensity. At this point, there is a clear change in the course of events.

The **conflict** is the struggle between opposing forces. In a literary text, characters often struggle with moral issues. They can be in conflict with society, or they can have a problem with another character. In addition, they can experience an internal conflict and be at odds with their own norms and values.

A **flashback** is when the writer breaks the storyline to describe an event that happened before the story began.

**Foreshadowing** is a literary technique that uses clues or hints to suggest how the plot will develop.

The **hero / heroine** is the central male / female character of a literary text. Usually, the hero or heroine has a high moral character and is courageous.

**Irony** is a literary technique used by writers to create a discrepancy between what is expected, or appears to be, and what actually is.

- In irony of situation, the result of an action is the reverse of what the character expected.
- In verbal irony, the contrast is between the literal meaning of what is said and what is meant.

A **novel** is a fictitious (made-up), book-length story of at least 100 pages.

The **plot** is the sequence of actions and events in a literary text.

The **protagonist** of a story is the main character, who must overcome an opposing force or difficulty in order to reach his or her goal.
The **setting** refers to the time, the place and the social environment in which a story takes place.

**Suspense** is a literary technique used to sustain the interest of the reader.

A **symbol** is a device in literature in which an object represents an idea. For example, a rose may symbolize beauty.

The **theme** is the central idea or an insight about life that the writer wishes to express. Usually we can find the theme by answering the question: “What is this work about?”