

Knowledge structures in English

The following tables are an attempt to map out the shallow hierarchies which exist in English. They are intended to be used as a tool to ensure that an English curriculum is covering all of the most important concepts on which mastery of literature and language depends.

tenor + vehicle + ground [prerequisite] METAPHOR Vocabulary [continuous]			
Linguistic	Literary		
Abstract-to-concrete ▽ Words ▽ Systematised metaphors	Tropes		
	Metonymy	Metaphor	Symbolism
	Synecdoche	Simile Personification Conceit	Allegory Motif ▽ STORY
			Irony

STORY vocabulary [continuous]				
Sense making ▽ Mythology	Artifice creation			
	Theme	Plot	Character Types	
	Motif	Genre	Characterisation	Narratology
		Tragedy Comedy Epic	Voice + speech + thought	
		Façade <-> flaw		Poetry Drama Prose

ARGUMENT vocabulary [continuous]			
	Debate	Persuasion	
Speaking & listening	Rhetoric		
	Analytical writing Composition		
	Parts of rhetoric	Types of rhetoric ▽ deliberative + judicial + epideictic satire	Appeals
	Thesis statements Structuring arguments		Ethos Logos Pathos
Evidence – identifying/embedding + tentative phrasing			Summarising

similarities & differences [prerequisite] PATTERN vocabulary [continuous]			
Phonemes ▽ Vowels + consonants (effects) ▽ Schemes	Organisation		
	Poetry		Prose drama
	Lines + stanzas		Sentences + paragraphs + chapters + scenes ▽ Beginnings + changes + endings ▽ Binding time
	Metre ▽ Rhythm	Rhyme	Caesura + enjambment
			Form
			Motif Theme

CONTEXT vocabulary [continuous]			
Classical + Biblical allusions; Elizabethan; Romantic; Victorian; 20 th Century	Specific background knowledge		Theory
	Historic Social	Literary satire	Feminist Marxist Psychoanalytical
			Embedding into literary essays
		STORY	ARGUMENT

GRAMMAR vocabulary [continuous]				
	Morphology	Syntax		
Spelling + decoding	Roots + fixes	Word class subjects + verbs		
	METAPHOR	Fragments Phrases		
		Clauses + sentences		
		Types		
		Complexity	Purpose	
		Punctuation		
			Semantics + pragmatics	