

FICTIONAL ELEMENTS

All the things you need to know
about the stories and novels you
read every day.



CHARACTER

- Characters are the people, animals, or objects in a story.

CHARACTER (continued)

- Character traits are those qualities that the writer wants the characters to have.
- They include physical traits- what a character looks like including age, gender, and clothing (brown hair, tall, thin)

CHARACTER (continued)

- And expressions of personality – how a character acts, thinks, and feels (which can be positive or negative- kind, responsible, cruel, obnoxious)
- You can make characterization charts to list all the information you learn about a character.

CHARACTER (continued)

- **Characterization** is the way the writer describes the characters.
 - a) **directly**- stating how the character looks and what the expressions of personality are
 - b) **indirectly**- telling how the character behaves, says, and thinks; telling how the character affects other characters.

CHARACTER (continued)

- **Character motivation** is the reason or reasons why a character acts, feels, or thinks in a certain way.
- **Character development** is how a character changes throughout the story.

CHARACTER (continued)

- The main character is whom or what the story is about.
- Main characters are defined as being:
 - a) round- has a well-developed personality and many character traits (expressions of personality)
 - b) dynamic- changes throughout story either mentally or emotionally

CHARACTER (continued)

➤ The minor characters are those who support the main character.

a) may be round and dynamic as the main character or--

b) flat- only one or two character traits

c) static- does not change during the story

SETTING

- Setting is the time (when) and place (where) a story is set.
 - Setting can become part of the plot of a story and can influence how a character goes through the story.
 - Setting can symbolize and reinforce certain ideas in a story.
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PLOT

- A **plot** is the pattern, episodes, or series of events in a story.
 - **Conflict** is the struggle or problem a character has to face in the story.
 - Stories can have more than one conflict.
 - Only one will be considered the “main” conflict.
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PLOT (continued)

- **Internal conflict** is a conflict that the main character has occurring within himself.
 - character vs. himself (herself)
 - **External conflict** is a conflict the main character has with someone or something outside of himself.
 - character vs. character
 - character vs. setting
 - character vs. society
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PLOT (continued)

- The basic situation or the exposition is the beginning of the plot. It usually introduces us to the main character, the setting, and the conflict.
- The rising action or complications are all of the events or episodes that lead up to the climax.

PLOT (continued)

- The climax of the story comes when the struggle or main conflict reaches the point of its greatest interest.
- The falling action is the two or three events or episodes that lead to the resolution of the story.

PLOT (continued)

- **Resolution** is when the problem may or may not be solved and the story ends.
 - You can make all kinds of plot diagrams, chains, and charts to help with figuring out plot.
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POINT OF VIEW

- Point of view is how the author tells the text/story.
- There are three (3) basic points of view an author will use in writing.
- Narrator- who is telling the story
- First person- narrator is the main character in the story. You only know what the main character knows, does, says, feels, sees, and thinks.

POINT OF VIEW (con't)

- **Third person limited**- narrator is telling the thoughts or feelings of a single character, while the other characters are presented on the outer edges.
- **Third person omniscient**- narrator is not a character in the story but knows everything about all of the characters.

POINT OF VIEW (con't)

- You, as a reader, also have a point of view.
- Whenever you read text, you have to be aware of the setting of that text, especially of the TIME.
- Depending upon the setting, your modern POV must be put aside, and you need to focus on the situation/plot contained in that setting- whether the text is fiction or non fiction.

THEME

- The theme in a story is the basic message or idea the author wants you to know.
- Authors show the themes to their work through
 - the characters created,
 - through the actions of the characters, and
 - through the images used to describe events, people, and places (setting).
- Themes are always written in sentence form.
- They are universal- they can be found in many stories and novels.

SUBJECT

- The subject of a piece of literature is NOT the theme.
- The subject is exactly that-what the writer is telling the reader about.
- *Friendship* (subject)
- *Friendship* can withstand many ups and downs in a person's life. (theme)
- The subject will probably appear in the theme sentence.

MOOD

- Mood is the overall feeling a reader gets from a piece of literature.
- The mood changes throughout the story/novel depending upon the plot
- The mood is usually two or three adjectives such as:
 - Scary
 - Mysterious
 - Dreamy
 - Sad
 - Exhilarating
 - Suspenseful
 - Romantic
 - Depressing

TONE

- The tone is the attitude the writer takes with the audience, the subject, or a character.
 - The tone of a piece of literature is NOT the mood.
 - Tone is shown through the writer's use of words and details.
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AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

- Why did the author write this particular piece?
 - Persuade/Argue
 - Inform
 - Entertain

- Also known by the acronym- PIE