

Nov 29 \$ 30⁰⁰

→ take 2 days

* stamp notes when finished

* warn of possible quiz

Elements of the Short Story

Conflict is the problem or struggle in a story that triggers the action.

Four Types of Conflict

1. **Person vs. Person**—One character in a story has a problem with one or more of the other characters.
2. **Person vs. Society**—A character has a problem with some element of society: the school, the law, or the accepted way of doing things.
3. **Person vs. Nature**—A character has a problem with some natural happening: a snowstorm, an avalanche, the bitter cold, or any other element of nature.
4. **Person vs. Self**—A character has a problem deciding what to do in a certain situation.

Plot is the sequence of events in a story.

There are five parts of Plot

1. **Exposition** introduces the setting, the characters and sets the scene for the conflict.
2. **Rising Action**—conflict is introduced and begins to intensify.
3. **Climax** is the high point of interest or suspense.
4. **Falling Action**—after the climax, the action falls to a resolution. Events and complications begin to resolve themselves.

5. **Resolution** is the end of the central conflict. It shows how the situation turns out and ties up any loose ends.

Setting is the time and place of the action.

Time: past, present, future, year, season, time of day

Place: geographical place-region, country, state, or town

Point of View is the angle from which the story is told.

Narrator is the speaker or character who tells a story.

First person narrator-when a character in the story tells the story

Third person narrator-when a voice outside the story narrates

Omniscient third person narrator (all knowing)-can tell readers what any character thinks and feels

Limited third person narrator- sees the world through one character's eyes and reveals only that character's thoughts

Character is a person or an animal who takes part in the action of a literary work.

Protagonist is the central character in a story, or hero, the one most of the action centers on and the one the reader usually sympathizes with most.

Antagonist is the person or thing working against the protagonist, or hero, of the literary work.

Dynamic Character—develops and grows during the course of the story

Static character—does not change

Characterization is the act of creating and developing a character.

Five ways a writer reveals character:

1. Physical Description: what a character looks like, relating the physical to the mental
 2. Character's Actions: what characters do, how they react to their surroundings
 3. Character's Words: what a character says and thinks
 4. Other Characters' Actions and Words: what others say about this person, how others treat them
 5. Direct Description: what the author says about the character
- #1-4 are called indirect characterization, because the reader infers (figures out) what the character is like based on observations.
 - #5 is called direct characterization because the reader is told about the character directly in the author's words.

Foreshadowing is giving hints of what is to come later in a story.

Irony is a contrast between what is expected to happen and what really happens.

Flashback is a part of a story that goes back to an earlier time for the purpose of making something in the present clearer.

Satire is any kind of writing that makes fun of some aspect of human behavior.

Suspense is a feeling of curiosity or uncertainty about the outcome of events in a literary work. Writers create suspense by raising questions in the minds of their readers.

Mood is the feeling created in the reader by a literary work. The mood is often suggested by descriptive details.

Theme: The theme of a story is usually an idea about life, life situations, and human behavior. It is not directly stated; it is inferred (figured out by looking closely at the story).

To find the theme of a story, you can sometimes ask yourself, "What is this story really about?" or "What does this story say about people or human nature?" or "What stage of life or aspect of living is this story about?" A short story is usually a "snapshot" of real life, so to find out the theme, find out how the story relates to universal human experiences.