

Elements of a Short Story



nce Upon
a Time

The End

OBJECTIVES

- Identify elements of a short story
- Define elements of a short story
- Demonstrate mastery of short story elements

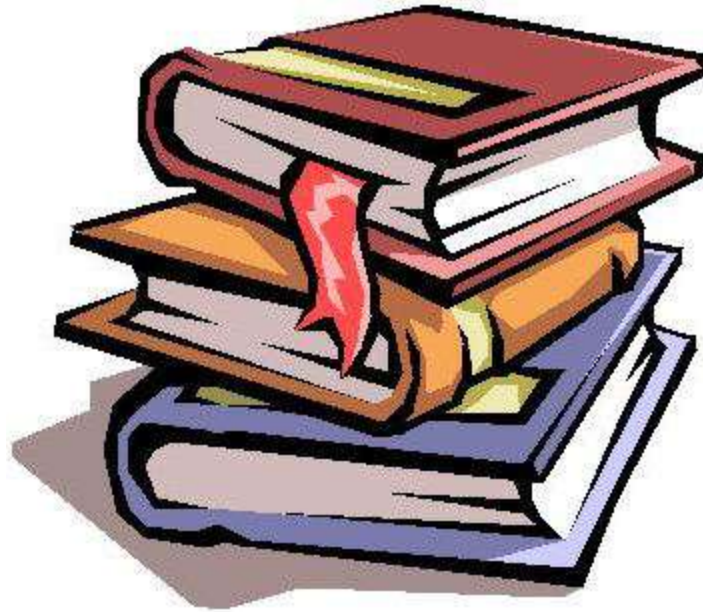


OVERVIEW

Short stories often contain structural and character elements that should be familiar to you.

These elements can be used as guides to help you think about the actions, themes, and contexts of the story.

Genre: a distinctive category of literary composition



Inference

- A conclusion reached based on textual evidence and reasoning



Elements of a Short Story

Theme

- The subject of a story.
- It is not a moral, lesson, or a rule for living.
- It is a general idea

Ex.

Love

Family Feud

Themes from 'The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet'



Central Idea



The most
important or
central thoughts

Tells reader what
text is about

More specific to the
story



CHARACTERIZATION

The description of the personalities of the characters in the story and the ways in which authors reveal their personalities:

- Speech
- Thoughts
- Effect on other characters
- Action
- Looks



"STEAL"

Dialogue

- Conversations between people in a piece of writing.
- Usually has quotation marks (“Hello”)



FORESHADOWING

- A warning or indication of future event(s)



FLASHBACK

- A scene in a movie set in a time earlier than the main story.
- Goes back in time



Point of View

- The position of the author or character
- It is their attitude

Point of View

- First Person Point of View- a character from the story is telling the story; uses the pronouns “I” and “me”
- Second Person Point of View- the narrator tells the story to another character using the words “you”
- Third Person Point of View- an outside narrator is telling the story; uses the pronouns “he”, “she”, “they”

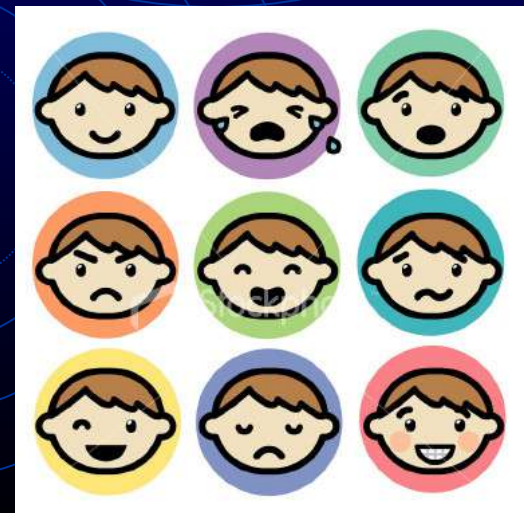
Types of Third-Person Point of View

- **Third-Person Limited**
 - The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings on only **ONE** character in a story.
- **Third-Person Omniscient**
 - The narrator knows the thoughts and feeling of **ALL** the characters in a story.



Tone and Mood

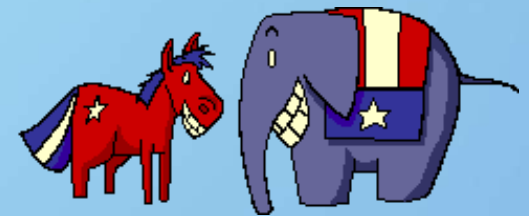
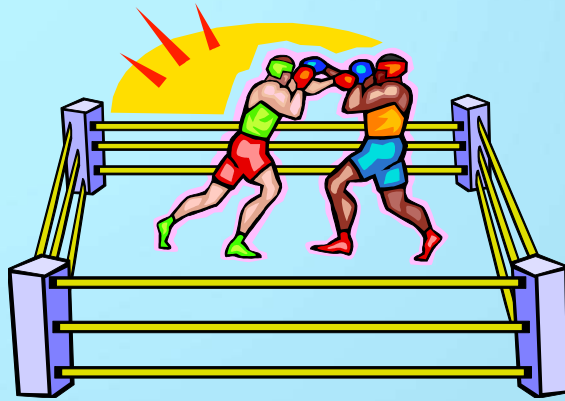
- **Tone:** The author's attitude toward the subject
- **Mood:** the emotion the reader feels from a piece of literature



Characters

- Protagonist and antagonist are used to describe characters.
- The protagonist is the main character of the story, the one with whom the reader identifies. This person is not necessary “good”.
- The antagonist is the force in opposition of the protagonist; this person may not be “bad” or “evil”, but he/she opposes the protagonist in a significant way

Conflict = Struggle



Conflict

- **External Conflict:**

Conflict between a character and another person OR a character and something non-human.

- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Nature

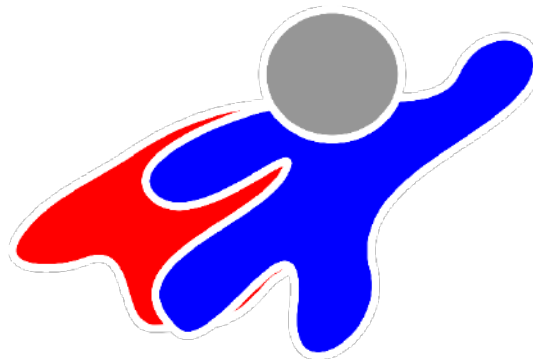


Conflict

- **Internal Conflict:**

Conflict takes place inside a character's mind

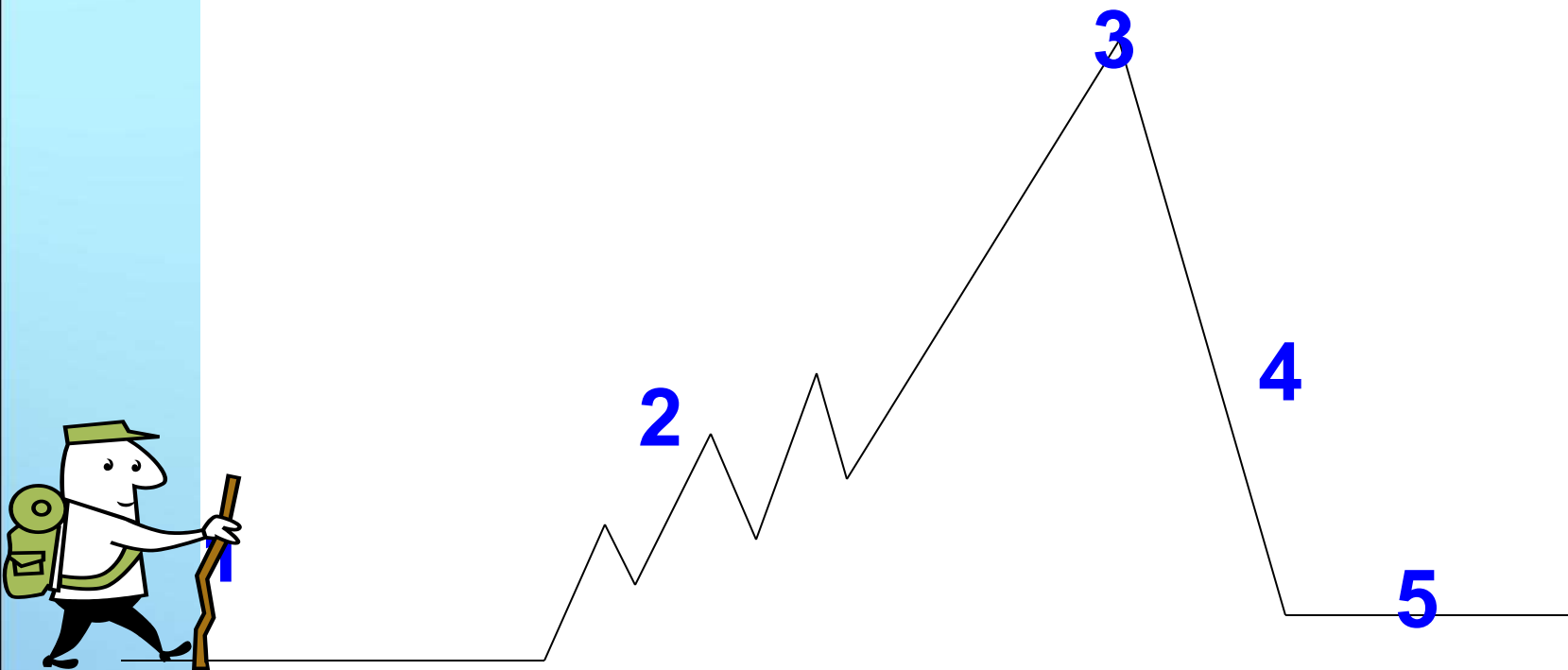
Man vs. Himself (fears, self-doubts, etc.)



Parts of a Plot

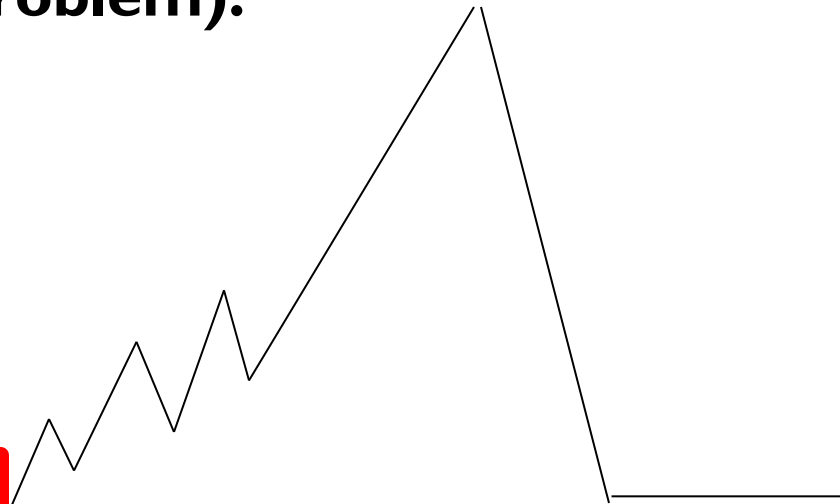
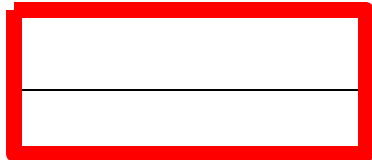
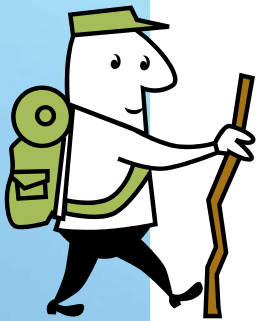
- Exposition - introduction; characters, setting and conflict (problem) are introduced
- Rising Action- where the conflict starts to develop
- Climax- highest point of interest or suspense of a story
- Falling Action - tension eases; events show the results of how the main character begins to resolve the conflict
- Resolution- loose ends are tied up; the conflict is solved

Plot Diagram



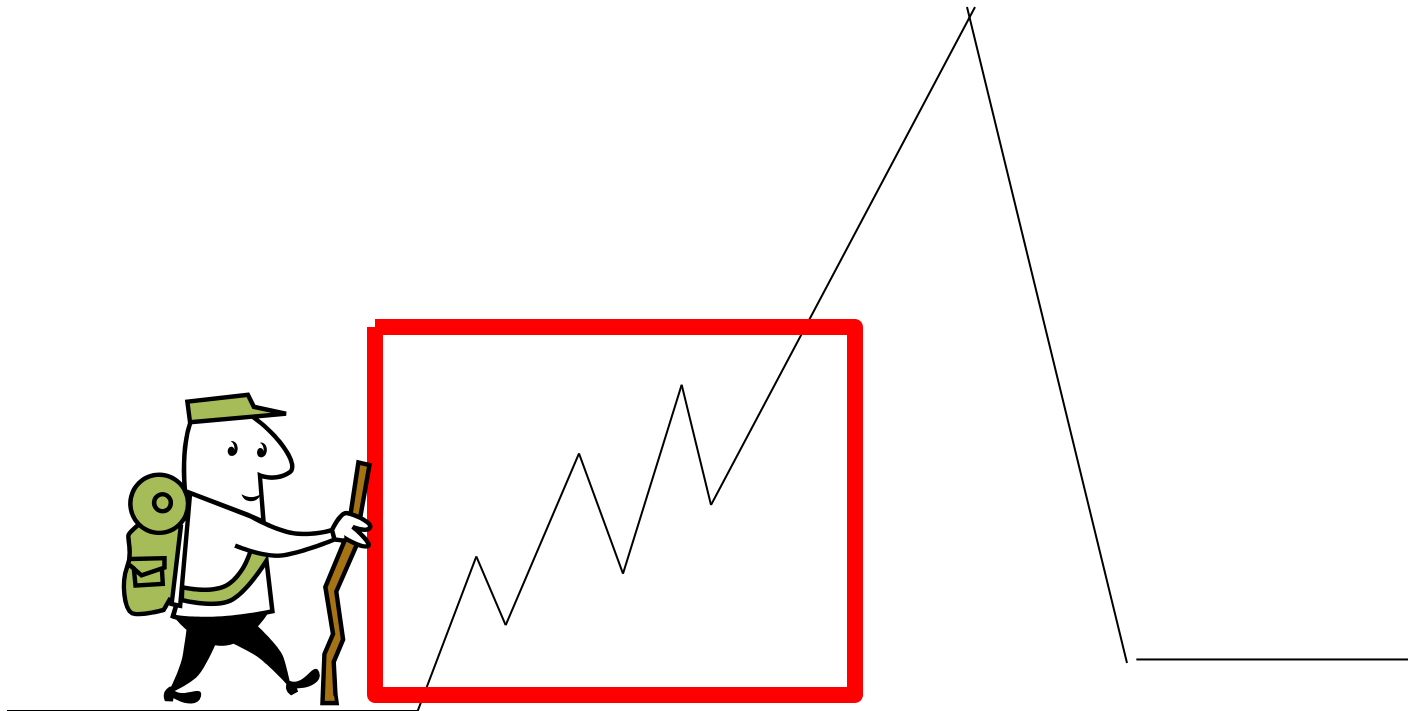
1. Exposition

- This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).



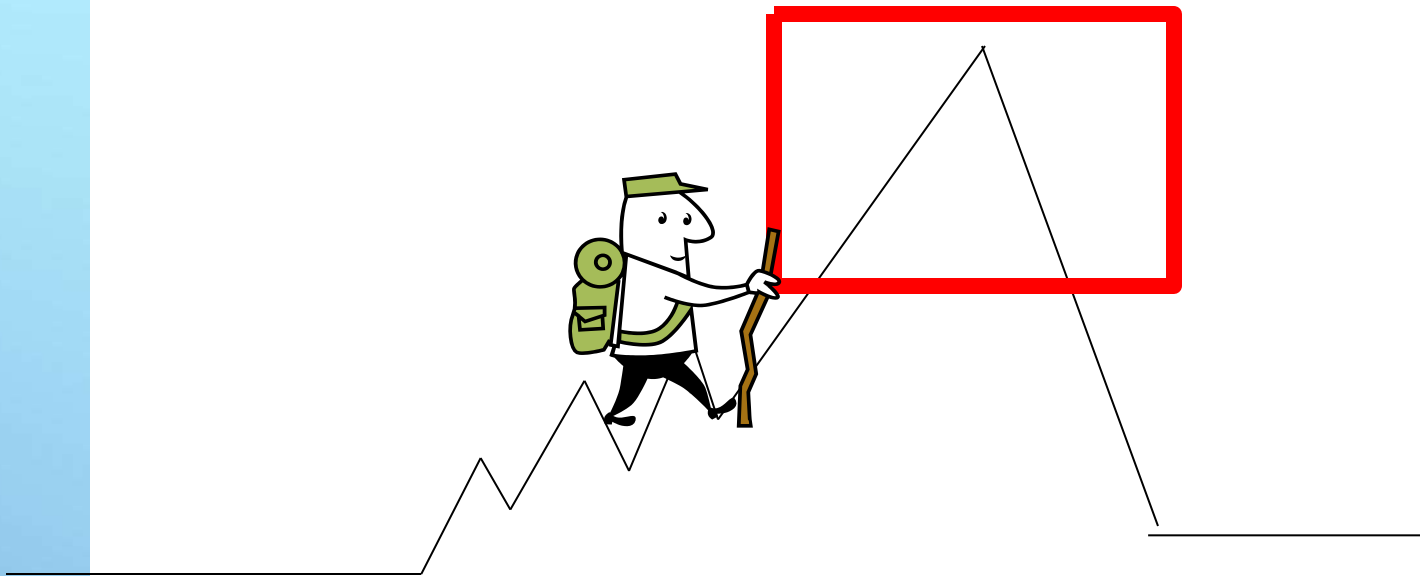
2. Rising Action

- **This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs and leads to the climax. Complications arise**



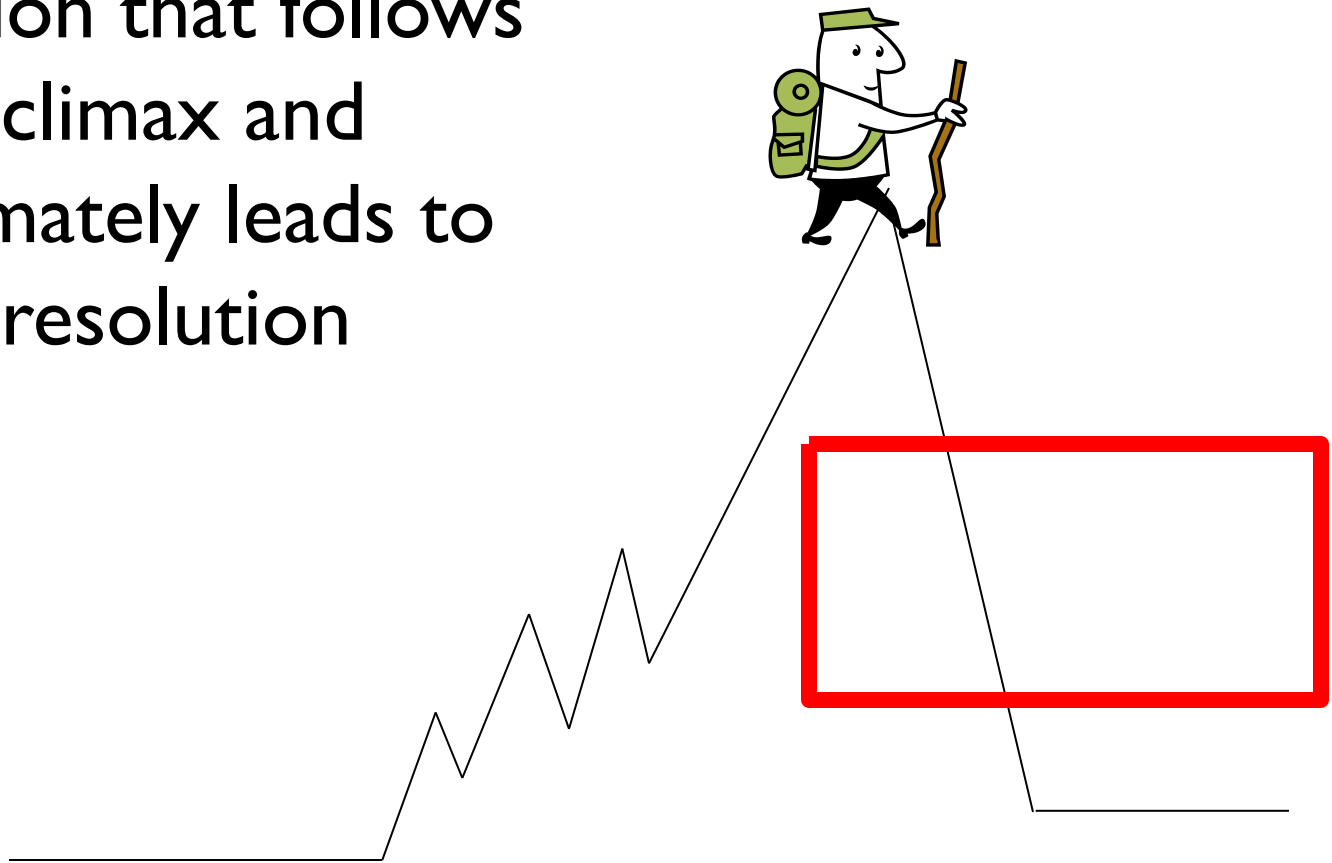
3. Climax

- **This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way. This is the most intense moment.**



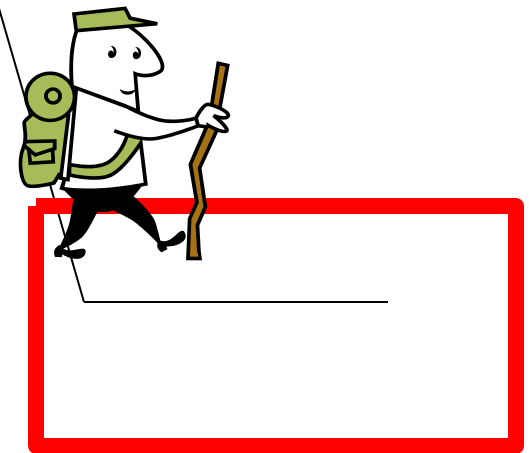
4. Falling Action

- Action that follows the climax and ultimately leads to the resolution



5. Resolution

- **The conclusion; all loose ends are tied up.**
- **Either the character defeats the problem, learns to live with the problem, or the problem defeats the character.**



Putting It All Together

1. Exposition  **Beginning of Story**

2. Rising Action

3. Climax  **Middle of Story**

4. Falling Action  **End of Story**

5. Resolution

Diagram of Plot

