

Example 1

“The walls were made of dark stone, dimly lit by torches. Empty benches rose on either side of him, but ahead, in the highest benches of all, were many shadowy figures. They had been talking in low voices, but as the heavy door swung closed behind Harry an ominous silence fell.”

---JK Rowling

Example 2

- “They could have had a more perfect day for a garden-party if they had ordered it. Windless, warm, the sky without a cloud. Only the blue was veiled with a haze of light gold, as it is sometimes in early summer. The gardener had been up since dawn, mowing the lawns and sweeping them, until the grass and the dark flat rosettes where the daisy plants had seemed to shine.” ---Katherine Mansfield

Elements of a Story



Ms. Walsh



Elements of a Story:

- Setting — The time and place a story takes place.
- Characters — the people, animals or creatures in a story.
- Plot — the series of events that make up a story.
- Conflict — a problem or struggle between two people, things or ideas.



Setting

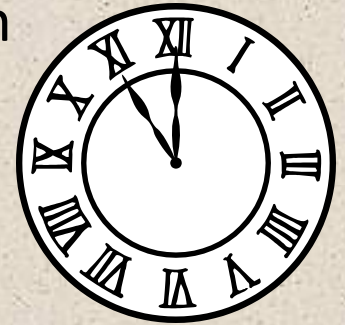


Setting

- The setting describes where and when the story takes place.
- It helps build background and create images in the mind.
- It helps set the tone or mood of the story.

Details can describe:

- ✓ Time of day
- ✓ Time of year
- ✓ Time in History
- ✓ Scenery
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Location

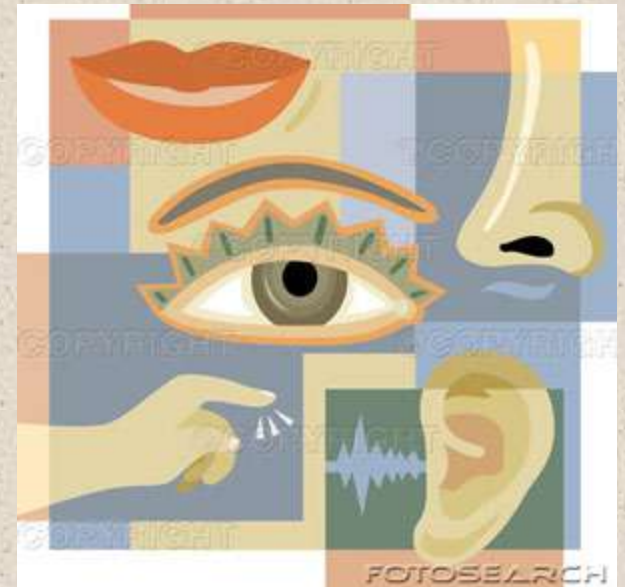






Using the Five Senses

- A good setting helps the reader visualize the places in the story.
 - A good author includes descriptions of the setting using the five senses...
- SIGHT
 - SMELL
 - TASTE
 - FEEL
 - SOUND



Take a Look...Which is better?

The castle
was beside
the water.

OR...

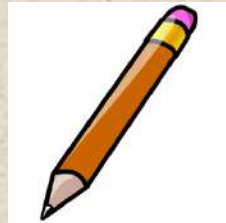


The waves crashed loudly against the shoreline. The fog lifted lightly and the medieval castle came into view. It was a beautiful site! The fog brushed my face and I could smell the smoke from the fire in the distance and taste the sea salt on my lips.

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Your Turn...

- On the next slide, there is a picture of a setting.
- In your own words, write a detailed description of the setting in your picture. Include many adjectives and don't forget to include descriptions for each of the five senses: see, hear, feel, smell, taste
- Extension: Draw your own setting and then write about it.
- Extension: Your teacher will give you a magazine to look through. Find a picture that could be a setting for a story.



Characters



Every story needs Characters...



People

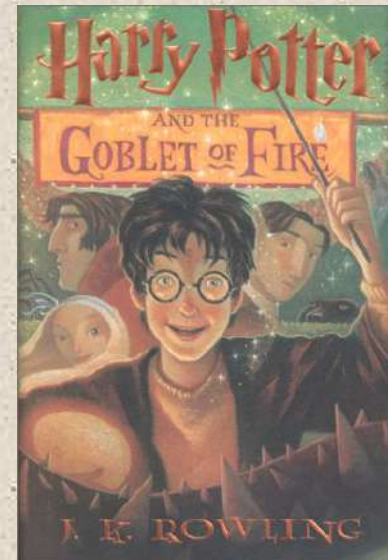
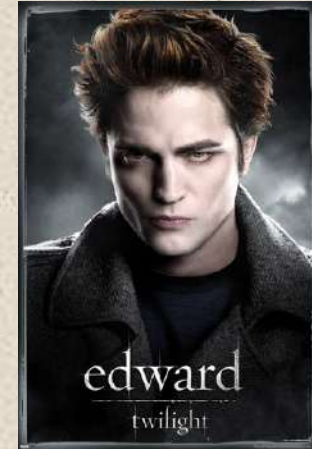


Animals



Or Creatures

The protagonist is the “good guy”



The **antagonist** is the “bad guy” or force



Characterization

Characterization is the way in which an author shows the personality of a character

Characterization is a technique writers use to make characters “come to life.”



“Lennie is big and dumb. His childlike innocence allows him to take an active role in George's dream of owning a farm. Lennie loves soft things and animals, which he accidentally kills because of his strength. His size combined with his mental handicap frequently put him and George in difficult situations.”

Of Mice and Men

By: John Steinbeck

Characterization

Characters are people or animals in a story.

A writer can tell you directly about a character...
(Freddy was very competitive)

Or

A writer can tell you indirectly about a character...
(Two days before the game, Freddy gathered his teammates and laid out his plan. Then he looked at them and said, “We are going to win this one. No excuses.”)

Direct Characterization

- Direct Characterization author *tells* the reader the personality of the character.
- Direct Characterization is obvious to the reader and “spells” it right out.
- “The *patient* boy and the *quiet* girl were both *well behaved* and did not disobey their mother.



Indirect Characterization

- Indirect Characterization
- author *shows* things that reveal the personality of the character.
- **S**peech
- **T**hought
- **E**ffect on Others
- **A**ctions
- **L**ooks

The boy sat next to his sister as she poked him and teased him. He did not react. He carefully picked up her doll from the floor and placed it on her lap saying gently, “Here you go, why don’t you play with your doll?”

Think about your favorite book, movie or TV character...

- How can you describe his/her appearance?
- What kind of personality does he/she have?
- What kinds of things does he/she like?
- Tell your partner about this character.



"The Baker, who was an older man with a thick neck, listened without saying anything when she told him the child would be eight years old next Monday. The baker wore a white apron that looked like a smock. Straps cut under his arms, went around in back and then to the front again, where they were secured under his heavy waist. He wiped his hands on his apron as he listened to her. He kept his eyes down on the photographs and let her talk."

Raymond Carver, "A Small, Good Thing"

Character Traits

Character Traits are descriptive adjectives that tell us specific qualities of a character

<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Honest•Light-hearted•Leader•Expert•Brave•Conceited•Mischievous•Demanding•Thoughtful•Keen•Happy•Disagreeable•Simple•Fancy•Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Excited•Studious•Inventive•Creative•Thrilling•Independent•Intelligent•Compassionate•Gentle•Proud•Wild•Messy•Neat•Joyful•Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bright•Courageous•Serious•Funny•Humorous•Sad•Poor•Rich•Tall•Dark•Light•Handsome•Pretty•Ugly•Selfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Unselfish•Self-confident•Respectful•Considerate•Imaginative•Busy•Patriotic•Fun-loving•Popular•Successful•Responsible•Lazy•Dreamer•Helpful•Simple-minded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Humble•Friendly•Short•Adventurous•Hard-working•Timid•Shy•Bold•Daring•Dainty•Pitiful•Cooperative•Lovable•Prim•Proper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Ambitious•Able•Quiet•Curious•Reserved•Pleasing•Bossy•Witty•Fighter•Tireless•Energetic•Cheerful•Smart•Impulsive•Loyal
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Character Poem

Example of poem

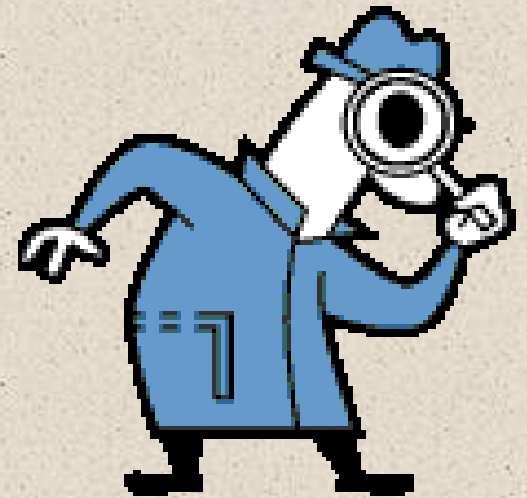
First name _____
Four traits _____
Related to: _____
Cares deeply for _____
Who feels _____
Who needs _____
Who gives _____
Who would like to see _____
Resident of _____

Snow White,
Beautiful, giving, loving, unhappy
The Queen, her wicked stepmother
The seven dwarfs
Safe in the forest
The love of a Prince
Love to the seven dwarfs
Goodness throughout the kingdom
The forest.



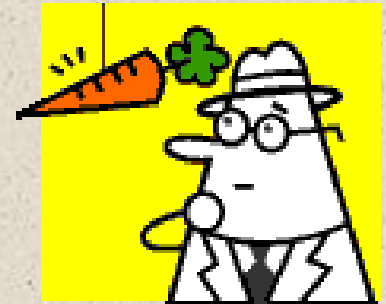
Factors in Analyzing Characters

- Physical appearance/what they look like
- Personality & Character Traits
- Background/personal history
- Motivation/why do they act?
- Relationships
- Conflict or struggles
- Does the character change?
- What do they think and feel?
- How do others feel about them?



Character Motivation

- Character Motivation is the driving force behind *why* the character does what he/she does. (Reasons for character's actions)
- What does the main character want more than anything else (main goal)?
- What do secondary characters want more than anything else (main goal)?
- What potential conflicts or struggles might exist between the characters?



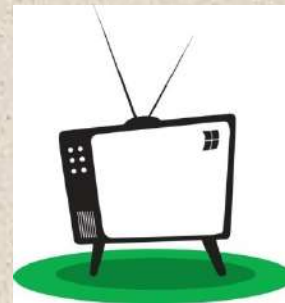
Snow White: Character Motivation

- **Character Motivation.** Why does the queen's heart turn against Snow White?
- **Character Motivation.** Why do the dwarfs allow Snow White to stay with them?
- **Character Motivation.** Why does the queen disguise herself as an old peddler woman?
- **Character Motivation.** Why does the queen give Snow White the poison apple?



Your Turn...Think of a character from a book, a movie or TV...

- Who is the character? From what story?
- What does he/she want?
- What does he/she need?
- What is his/her motivation?
- What does he/she do to get what they need?
- How does the character change during the movie, book or TV show?

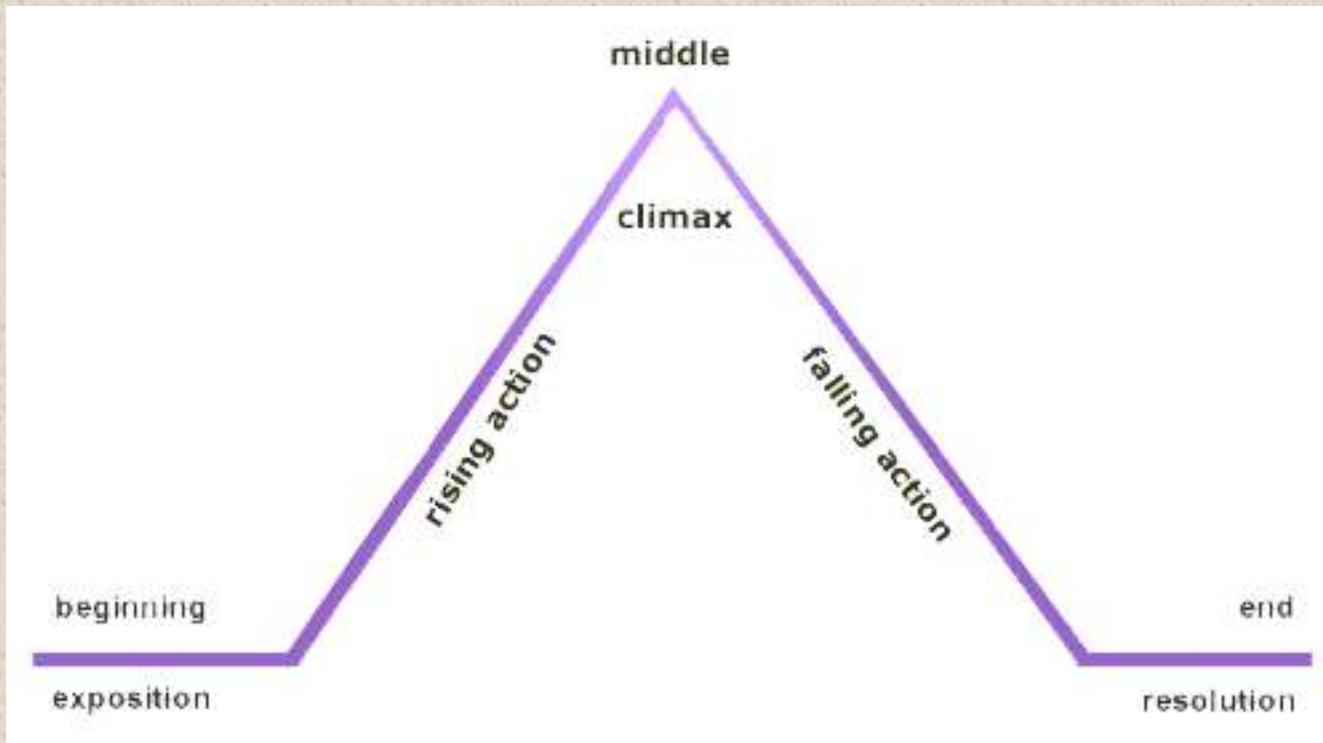


Plot



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Plot



Plot - the events that take place in a story. Every story needs a plot! The plot has different “parts...”

Plot Components

Climax: the turning point, the most intense moment—either mentally or in action

Rising Action: the series of events and **conflicts** in the story that lead to the climax

Falling Action: all of the action which follows the climax

Exposition: the start of the story, before the action starts

Resolution: the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads

The **climax** is the most exciting part!!

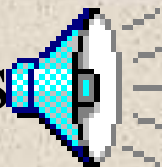


Special Techniques of Plot...

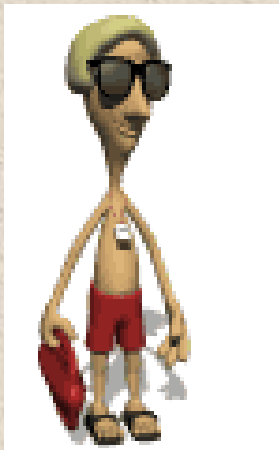
- Suspense- excitement or tension
- Flashback- interrupts the normal sequence of events to tell about something that happened in the past
- Surprise Ending- conclusion that reader does not expect
- And...Foreshadowing...



A hint about what will happen next is called foreshadowing

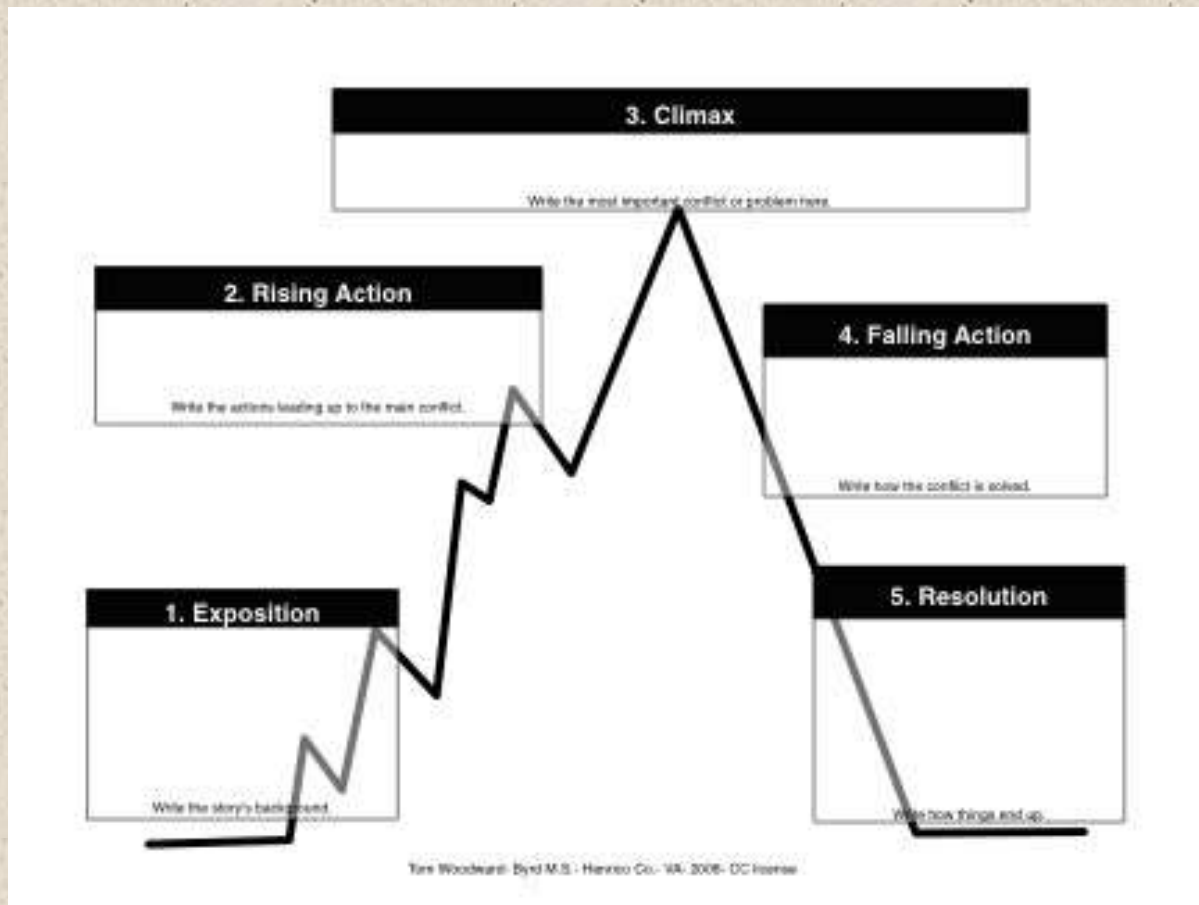
For example, if you hear this 

Then you know someone's about to get eaten!



Your Turn...

- You will be given a short story to read.
- Once you've finished reading, fill out the plot diagram for the story.



Conflict



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Conflict

- Conflict is the “battle” between two forces.
- *Conflict isn't always bad..sometimes it helps to create change.*



Conflict

Conflict is the struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.



Types of Conflict

Character vs Character



Character vs Nature



Character vs Society



Character vs Self



Types Of Conflict...a deeper look

1. Character vs. Character
(problem with another character)



2. Character vs. Nature
(problem with force of nature)



3. Character vs. Society
(problem with the laws or beliefs of a group)
(character vs. community, society or culture)



4. Character vs. Self
(problem with deciding what to do or think; "inner conflict")



Your turn...

What's a well-known movie that has...

Character vs. Character Conflict

Character vs. Nature Conflict

Character vs. Society

Character vs. Self

