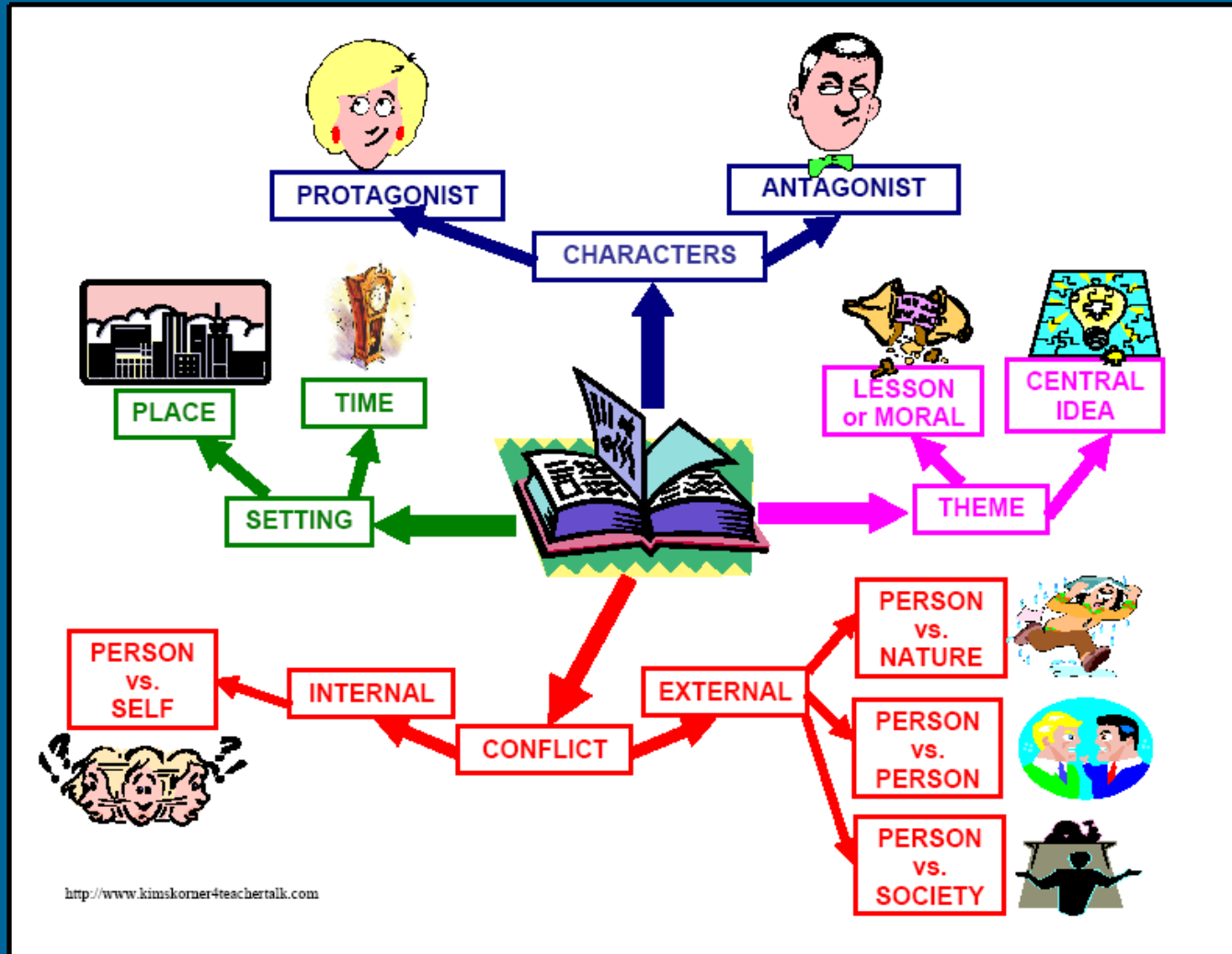

Literary Elements and Devices

Literary Elements

- Refers to an aspect of a whole text
- Not characteristic of the author, but present throughout all works of literature
 - Theme, conflict, setting, characters, point of view, etc...

Literary Elements



Literary Elements

- Let's identify these elements in the story you read:
“Rikki-tikki-tavi”



Characters

- Who is the protagonist, the main character?
 - Rikki-tikki-tavi

- How would you describe him?
 - Brave
 - Smart
 - Curious
 - Fast



Characters

- Who is the antagonist? Who opposes the protagonist?

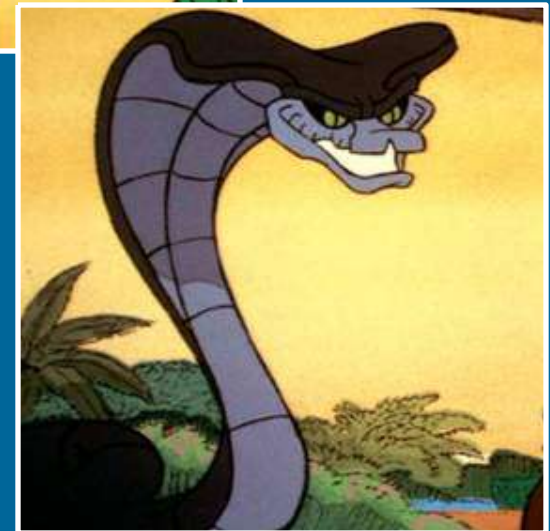
- Nag/Nagaina

- How are they described in the story?

- Evil

- Dangerous

- Protective (of each other and eggs)



Minor Characters

■ The Family

- Teddy
- The Big Man
- Alice (Teddy's Mother)



■ Rikki's Friends

- Darzee
- Darzee's Wife
- Chuchundra (The muskrat)



Setting

- Where did the story occur?
 - In and around a large bungalow in Segowlee, India

- When?
 - The time period is not directly told to us in the story, but it can be inferred that it took place some time during the British colonization of India



Point of View

- From what point of view was the story told?
 - First-Person? **X**
 - Was the story told by one of the characters, only revealing his/her sights and thoughts?
 - Third-Person Objective? **X**
 - Is the narrator an outsider who can only report what he sees and hears (cannot report the feelings of others)?
 - Third-Person Limited? **X**
 - Is the narrator an outsider who can see into the mind of only one character?
 - Omniscient? **✓**
 - Is the narrator an outsider who seems all knowing, capable of looking into the minds of all characters?

Point of View

- The following passage illustrates the point of view:
- “He was afraid for the minute; but it is impossible for a mongoose to stay frightened for any length of time, and though Rikki-tikki had never met a live cobra before, his mother had fed him on dead ones, and he knew that all a grown mongoose's business in life was to fight and eat snakes. Nag knew that too, and at the bottom of his cold heart he was afraid.”
- The narrator can see into the heads of both characters, reporting their thoughts and feelings.

Conflict

■ Types of Conflict

□ Man vs. Man

- External conflict between two like beings; hero vs. villain

□ Man vs. Nature

- External conflict between a character and forces of nature

□ Man vs. Society

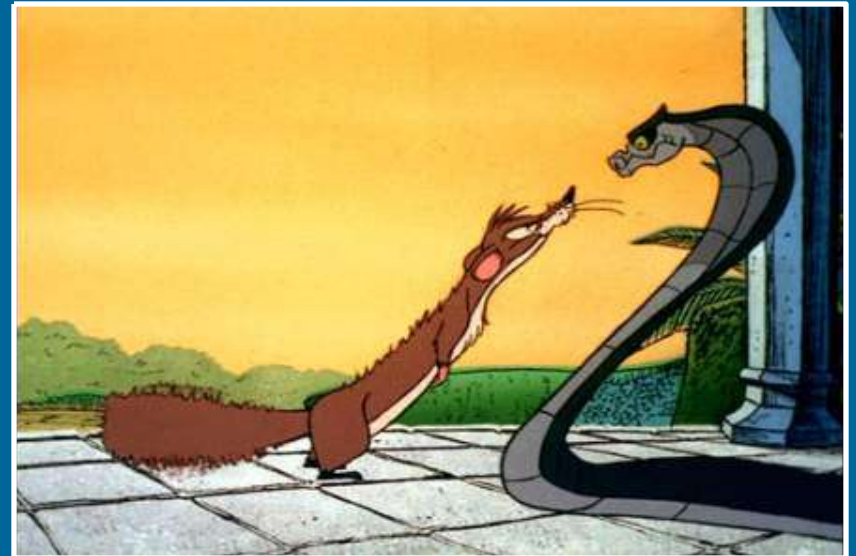
- External conflict between a character or characters and social traditions/concepts

□ Man vs. Self

- Internal conflict between a character and his own will, confusion, or fears; self-discovery; redemption

Conflict

- What is the conflict in this story?
 - The cobras want to regain control and superiority in the garden and plan to do so by killing the family and then Rikki. Rikki wants to protect himself and the family by killing the snakes.
- What type is this?
 - Man vs. Man (or rather Creature vs. Creature)



Theme

- A theme is the main idea or message conveyed by the piece
- What were the central ideas of the story?
 - Courage – The story emphasized the courage of Rikki and contrasted that with the cowardice of Chuchundra the muskrat
 - Loyalty – Rikki displays loyalty towards the family as well as to his duty as a mongoose
 - Survival – Survival is the motivating factor behind the actions of all characters involved. Even the cobras killed only for food and to protect their way of life.

Theme

- Was there a lesson or moral to be learned?
 - Self-reliance, loyalty, courage, and common sense will help you overcome obstacles



Mood

- Mood refers to the general sense or feeling the reader is supposed to get from the text. It does not describe the author's or characters' state of mind.
- What kind of mood do you sense in the story?
 - The bulk of the story is suspenseful as the conflict develops, but the end delivers relief and joy as the garden and the family celebrate the end of Nag and Nagaina

Tone

- Tone describes the apparent attitude of the speaker or narrator toward the subject. It refers only to the narrative voice; not to the author or characters
- What tone is displayed in “Rikki-tikki-tavi”?
 - The tone is at times serious and frightening, but also reflects Pilib's playful side



Literary Devices

- Literary devices are techniques used by the author to convey ideas and emotions to the audience
- Unlike literary elements, they are not necessarily present in all works of literature
 - Metaphors, similes, foreshadowing, etc...

Literary Worksheet

- Split students into small groups and have each group come up with examples for a few of the literary devices.

Foreshadowing

- Foreshadowing occurs when future events in a story are suggested by the author before they actually happened.
- For example, in “Rikki-tikki-tavi”:
 - “He'll do no such thing,” said the father. “Teddy's safer with that little beast than if he had a bloodhound to watch him. If a snake came into the nursery now--”
 - The statement by the father foreshadows the conflict with Nag and Nagaina that occurs later in the story

Flashback

- A flashback takes the narrative back in time to an earlier point in the story.
- Often used to create suspense or develop a character
- Two Types in Literature
 - Internal: flashback to an earlier point in the narrative
 - External: flashback to before the narrative started

Flashback

■ Examples of Flashback:

□ “Palmer tried to hold the moment there, but it would not stay. It tunneled back through time and burst up into this same field three years before, the first Saturday in August, when the grass was streaked with red and guns were booming and birds were falling.”
(p. 17) *Wrinker* (Jerry Spinelli)

□ In the television show *Lost*, flashbacks help to tell the stories of most of the characters

Irony

- Irony is a literary device in which a statement, person, or situation is not as it seems
- Types
 - Verbal: when a speaker says one thing but means another (Sarcasm is a common example)
 - Dramatic: giving the audience pieces of information that some characters in the story are not aware of
 - Situational: discrepancy between expected results and actual results

Irony



■ Examples

□ Verbal:

■ *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

□ "Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man".

□ Mark Antony really means that Brutus is dishonorable

□ Dramatic

□ *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

■ When Romeo finds Juliet in a drugged sleep, he assumes her to be dead and kills himself. Upon awakening to find her dead lover beside her, Juliet then kills herself.

Irony

□ Situational

■ *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Coleridge

□ “Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink ;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink “

□ It is ironic that water is everywhere but none of it can be drunk



Figurative Language

- Descriptive language that is not meant to be taken literally, but to create imagery
- Metaphor – direct comparison of unrelated subjects
 - Equates two ideas despite their differences
 - “All the World’s a Stage” - *Shakespeare*
- Simile – uses words such as “like” or “as” to compare ideas
 - Allows two ideas to remain distinct in spite of their similarities
 - “My love is like a red, red rose” – Robert Burns



Symbolism

- Symbolism is the use of specific objects or images to represent abstract ideas
- For example, in “Rikki-tikki-tavi”, Rikki’s “red and hot” eyes represent his anger



Repetition

- There are several kinds of repetition where words, phrases, or sounds are repeated for a stronger emphasis by the author.
- Anaphora – repetition of word or phrase at beginning of every clause
 - "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender." (Winston Churchill)

Repetition

- Alliteration - the repetition of similar sounds, usually consonants, at the beginning of words.
 - "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers ..."

- Assonance – repetition of vowel sounds within phrases or sentences
 - On a proud round cloud in a white high night
- E.E. Cummings,

- Consonance – repetition of consonants with different vowel sounds
 - “A wind blew out of a cloudd, chilling
My beautiful Annabel Lee;
So that her highborn kinsman came
And bore her away from me” – *Annabel Lee* by Edgar Allen Poe

Hyperbole/Understatement

- Hyperbole – exaggeration; used to create emphasis
 - “Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Concord Hymn*
- Understatement – writer deliberately makes a situation seem less important than it is
 - “It isn't very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain.” —J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

Personification

- Type of figurative language that describes something which isn't human as having human qualities
 - “Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered. There was no one there.” – English proverb
- Anthropomorphism is a literary device that takes this idea a little bit further, giving uniquely human characteristics to non-humans
 - “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is based entirely on this device.
 - The animals all talk, plan, and are even implicated as being good or evil

Allusion

- Figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, event, literary work, myth, or work of art, either directly or by implication
 - "As the cave's roof collapsed, he was swallowed up in the dust like Jonah, and only his frantic scrabbling behind a wall of rock indicated that there was anyone still alive".
 - In the sentence above, "Jonah" is an allusion to the biblical story of Jonah and the whale



Questions?

Credits

- All Rikki-tikki-tavi pictures are from <http://www.fantasykat.com/shows/rikkitikki.html>
- Literary elements diagram: <http://kimskorner4teachertalk.com>
- Quiet irony: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/irony>
- No smoking:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Situational_irony.jpg
- Jonah and the Whale:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/benjamin_marra_illustrations/2416100795/