

The background of the slide is a solid brown gradient. Overlaid on this gradient are several faint, stylized illustrations of autumn leaves in various shades of brown and tan. The leaves are scattered across the slide, with some showing prominent veins. The main title is centered in the upper half of the slide.

Short Stories

Elements of a Story

Introduction

- A short story always deals with conflict.
- Authors create characters who must overcome some problem or obstacle.
- By empathizing with the struggles the main character has to undergo, the reader is drawn into the story.
- Empathy-feeling the experiences and challenges of the main character
- Conflict in literature will be resolved in many different ways.

Plot

- The organized pattern of events in a story.
 - Simple and Straight forward
 - Story has one action to follow
 - More complicated
 - Story has surprise ending
 - more than one action to follow
- Four parts of Plot
 - Exposition, Conflict, Climax, Resolution

Exposition

- The introduction of the story
- Usually tells the setting and lifestyle of the main character

Conflict

- The problem that occurs in the story
- The main character has a conflict with nature, self, or society

Climax

- The turning point of the story
- The main character confronts the conflict

Resolution

- The problem is resolved and the story draws to an end
- The main character decides what direction will be taken.

Character

- Primary importance of most stories
- Story focuses on main character
- Interactions of characters reveal personalities of characters and help reveal plot

Point of View

- Like the camera in a movie, the lens through which you view the action

Types of Point of View

- First person: told by main character "I"
- Third person omniscient: told from outside the story, but revealing feelings, thoughts of all characters *all knowing*
- Third person limited: told from outside the story, only told the feelings, thoughts of one character

Setting

- The time and place of the action
- Varies from strange and exotic to the familiar

Theme

- An idea about life
- Occasionally expressed directly through the author's comments
- Generally not directly stated in the story

Close Reading

- The better you understand how such elements as plot, character, setting, point of view, and theme work together, the better you will understand and appreciate the author's intent and meaning.

Ask yourself questions

Close Reading

1. Read actively for pleasure and insight.
2. Ask questions
3. Make predictions *Answer the questions*
4. Draw conclusions
5. Look for clues
6. Note point of view
7. Find central idea/theme