



Literature Terms

Fiction

Fiction

- Writing that comes from the author's imagination

Plot

- The sequence in which the author arranges events in a story

Plot Chart

Climax – the point of highest interest or the turning point

Falling Action – all the events after the climax that lead to the resolution

Rising Action – all the events leading up to the climax

Resolution – the end of the central conflict



Exposition – background information

Inciting Incident – the beginning of the central conflict

Denouement – anything that happens after the resolution

Character

- A person, animal or object in a literary work

Protagonist – the main character

Antagonist - The character who comes into conflict with the main character

They are not always bad.

Characterization

- The method an author uses to reveal characters and their various traits and personalities

Characterization

- **Direct Description** – The narrator or another character comments on the character's appearance, habits, dress, background, personality, etc.

Ex. “Calpurnia was something else again. She was all angles and bones; she was nearsighted; she squinted; her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard.”

Characterization

- **Portrayal of Behavior-** The actions and speech of the characters let us draw conclusions about that character

Ex. Looking up and down the aisle several times to make sure that no one could see him, Adam slipped three candy bars into his coat pocket and left the store quickly.

Ways to Classify Characters

Flat OR Round?

Flat: A character that is not developed and has very few traits. They are usually not a main character.

Round: A character that is well-developed. They show many traits throughout the story and are usually a main character.

Ways to Classify Characters

Static OR Dynamic?

Static: A character that stays the same throughout the story. They do not change.

Dynamic: A character that changes and develops throughout the story. They may change their behavior, beliefs, etc.

Conflict

- A struggle or clash between opposing characters, forces, or emotions

Types of Conflict

External - A character struggles against an outside force

Man vs. Man

Katniss has to fight the members of the other districts to survive.

Man vs. Nature

In *The Perfect Storm*, the fishermen fight to survive against a hurricane at sea.)

Man vs. Society

In *Anne Frank*, the Franks, a Jewish family, have to hide away in fear that a German citizen or a member of the SS will discover them.)

Internal - A character struggles with his or her own opposing feelings or beliefs

Man vs. Self

In the movie *Waterboy*, Bobby has to decide whether or not he should play football. He wants to play, but his mother, who he loves, has forbidden him to do so

Narrator

- A person, animal, or thing telling the story

Point of View

- The perspective from which the story is being told

Point of View

- **First Person** – Can only tell the reader his or her own private thoughts
- Uses the words “I” and “my”

Ex. It was bad enough having an invalid brother, but having one who possibly was not all there was unbearable, so began to make plans to kill him by smothering him with a pillow. However, one afternoon as I watched him, my head poked between the iron posts of the foot of the bed, he looked straight at me and grinned. I skipped through the rooms, down the echoing halls, shouting, "Mama, he smiled. he's all there! He's all there!" and he was.

From “The Scarlet Ibis”

Point of View

- **Second Person-**
- This narrator uses the pronouns you, your, and yours to address a reader or listener directly.
- This type of narrator is rarely used in fiction.

Ex: “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go.”- Dr. Seuss

Point of View

- **Third Person Limited –**
- Can only tell the private, internal thoughts of one character
- Therefore, they are limited by one, single person's views about things
- Uses the words “he” and “she”

Ex. Bob was nervous at the start of the race, and he wondered if it was too late to change his mind.

Point of View

- **Third Person Objective –**
- Cannot tell the inner, private thoughts of any of the characters, only tells what they do
- Therefore, this narrator can be objective about the story because he isn't influenced by any one character
- Uses the words “he” and “she”

Ex. Sally hurried across the street in order to catch the bus on time.

Point of View

- Third Person **Omniscient** –
- Can tell the private, inner thoughts of any character
- The “eye of God”
- Uses “he” and “she”

Setting

- The time, place, and circumstance in which a story is told

Theme

- The overall message the author wants the reader to get
- Literary works can have more than one theme

Mood

- The atmosphere created by the author through his use of descriptive language

Flashback

- An organizational device used to present action that occurred before the current (present) time of the story

Foreshadowing

- An organizational device used to give the reader clues or hints as to what is going to happen next

Allusion

- When the author makes a reference to a person, character, event etc. from the past and expects the reader to have prior knowledge of it

Symbolism

- When an object represents something else or has greater meaning

Irony

- The difference between what is expected and what actually happens

Types of Irony

- Dramatic Irony – When the reader knows something the other characters do not
- Situational Irony – A situation in which actions have an effect that is opposite of what was intended, and the outcome is contrary to what was expected
- Verbal Irony – When the intended meaning of a statement differs from the meaning that the words convey. (sarcasm)

Epiphany

- A sudden burst of knowledge or a realization

