

Literary Elements of a Story

Plot:

The sequence of events that happen in a story. The plot usually happens in the order of: *Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and Denouement.*

Setting:

Where and when the story takes place. The setting is the geographic location of the story. When a character walks from one part of a neighborhood to the other, the scene changes, but the setting always stays the same.

Characters:

The people, animals, or creatures in the story.

Protagonist:

One character who is central to the story and all the major events in the story.

Antagonist:

The character who opposes, or goes against the main character or protagonist. The antagonist tries to prevent the main character (protagonist) from succeeding or being happy.

Conflict:

Conflict is a problem that happens in the story. Usually, the conflict happens toward the beginning of the story, at the beginning of the Rising Action. There are different types of conflicts:

- (1) Person versus Person
- (2) Person versus Self
- (3) Person versus Nature
- (4) Person versus Society
- (5) Person versus Circumstance

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Theme:

The message that is in the story. Common themes are *love, friendship, loyalty, faith, hope, forgiveness, sacrifice, honor, justice, truth, freedom.*