

# Elements of Fiction

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# Character

1. **Character** - a person, animal or imaginary creature that takes part in the action of a story

# Character

- a. main character - the focus character in a story
- b. minor character - the less important character in a story
- c. static character - a character that changes a little or not at all
- d. dynamic character - a character that changes significantly
- e. protagonist - the main character in the story who is involved in the conflict
- f. antagonist - the force working against the main character

# Characterization

**Characterization** - the ways a writer creates and develops a character

# Characterization

Four lenses of character:

1. looks

3. actions

2. thoughts/feelings

4. viewed by others

# Conflict

1. **Conflict** - a struggle between two opposing forces

# Conflict

a. external conflict – when a character struggles against some outside person or force

-character v. man

- character v. nature

-character v. society

- character v. fate

b. internal conflict - a struggle within a character

-man v. himself

# Plot

1. **Plot** - the sequence of events that make-up a story

# Plot

- a. exposition- introduces the setting, characters and conflict in the story
- b. inciting incident - the moment of conflict that starts the action
- c. rising action- the plot gets more complicated; leads up to the climax
- d. climax- the point of highest interest or suspense in a story; the turning point
- e. falling action - the loose ends of the story begin to wrap up
- f. resolution- the loose ends are tied up and the story comes to a close

# Point of View

1. **Point of View** - the perspective from which a story is told

# Point of View

- a. first person point of view - when the narrator is a character in a story  
(I, me, we)
- b. third person point of view - when the narrator is not a character in the story  
(he, she, it, they)
- c. **Third Person Limited** - In **third person limited** the narrator only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character. All characters are described using pronouns, such as 'they', 'he', and 'she'. But, one character is closely followed throughout the story, and it is typically a main character

# Setting

1. **Setting** - the time and place of the action in a story

# Theme

**Theme** - the moral, message, or lesson about life that the writer wants the reader to learn

# Irony

**Irony** – humorous or scornful use of words to express the opposite of what one really means; what is said or written is not what is meant

# Irony

- a. Verbal – Contrast between what is said and what is meant. Most sarcastic comments are ironic. For instance, the person who says, “Nice going, Einstein!” isn’t really giving someone a compliment.
- b. Dramatic – Contrast between what the character thinks to be true and what the reader knows to be true. For instance, when the reader knows that the murderer is hiding in a character’s house, and the character arrives at home feeling he/she is safe at last.
- c. Situational – contrast between what happens and what is expected. For instance, someone playing a prank on someone else, it backfires, and the prankster gets a pie in the face.