

Elements of Fiction

1. **Character** - a person, animal or imaginary creature that takes part in the action of a story
 - a. **main character** - the focus character in a story (**PROTAGONIST**)
 - 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

2. **Characterization** - the ways a writer creates and develops a character
Four **traits** of character: 1. looks 3. actions 2. thoughts/
feelings 4. viewed by others

Conflict - a struggle between two opposing forces

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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

6. **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

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.

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.

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.

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