

WHAT IS A SHORT STORY?

A short story is:

A fictional narrative in prose consisting of a series of events designed to create a single dominant effect.
With a single plot.

ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY:

Setting

The setting answers the questions where and when the story happens.
It refers to the place and time of the story.

Character/s

This element answers the question who takes part in the action.
The character may be people, animals or animated objects such as plants, books, toys, and the like.
Abstract ideas like virtues and vices may also act as characters.
Protagonist vs. Antagonist

Characterization

To characterize is to delineate a character by projecting his/her strong and weak points.
Round or flat?
Static or dynamic?
Thus, a character is described as sympathetic, evil, respectable, affectionate, sincere, etc.

Plot

This element answers the question what happens in the story.
It is the sequence of the actions and events in a story.
Since every story, true or fictional, portrays human beings engaged in an action and participating in events, it follows that every story has a plot.

Conflict

This is the element that makes a plot interesting because it involves the tension or struggle between two opposing forces—the protagonist (main character) finds himself/herself in opposition to another person called antagonist (villain).
Sometimes the conflicting force is within the character himself/herself or it may be against nature or society.

Theme

This is the controlling idea or central idea around which the plot revolves.
It is the author's message to the readers.
It should not be confused with the moral of the story.
Some examples of themes are:
a) Good always wins over evil;
b) Slavery is bad so it should be abolished;
c) Man must know his limits.

POV

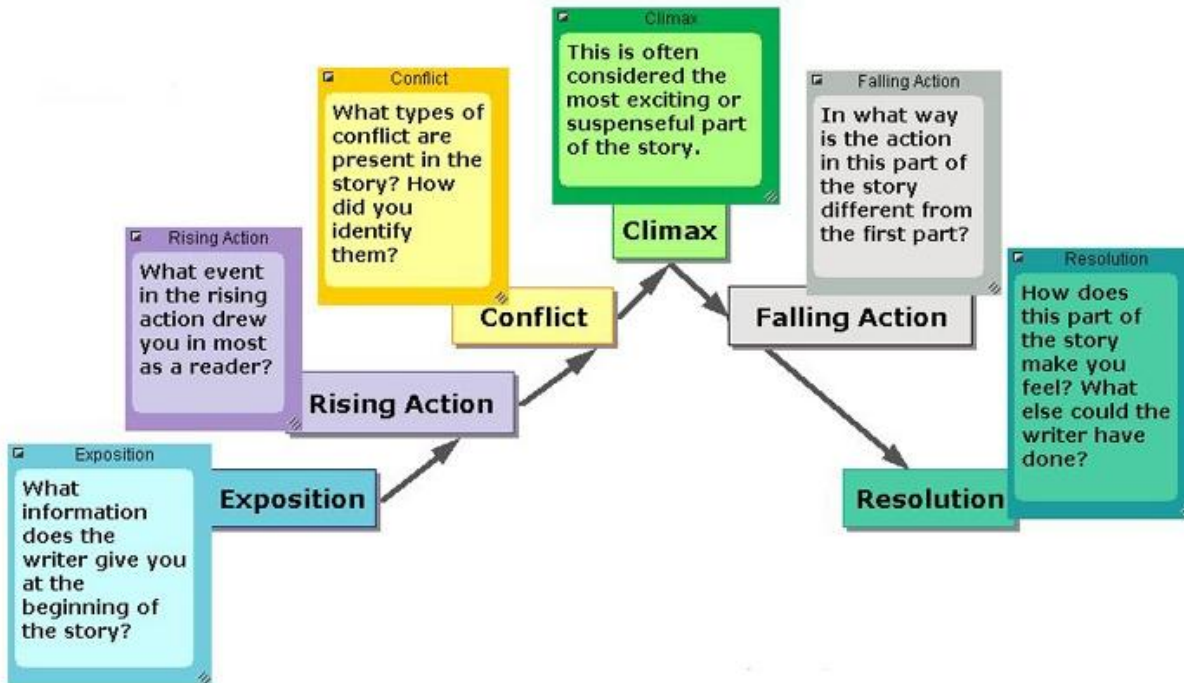
This refers to the storyteller.

The story may be told from the First Person point of view (“I” is the story teller), Third Person point of view (author is a mere observer to events); Omniscient point of view (the narrator assumes an all-knowing stance) telling the story from the points of view of all the characters.

Atmosphere

This refers to the predominant mood or feeling projected by the story. Thus, a story may be tragic, pathetic, comic, and the like.

THE PLOT DIAGRAM



Identifying the Elements of A Plot Diagram

Student Notes



Plot Diagram



Plot (definition)

- Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story. Every plot is made up of a series of incidents that are related to one another.



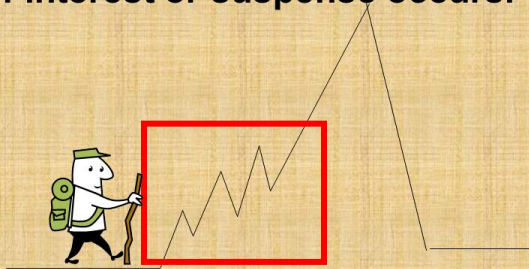
1. Exposition

- This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).



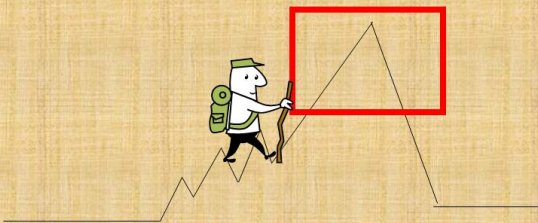
2. Rising Action

- This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs.



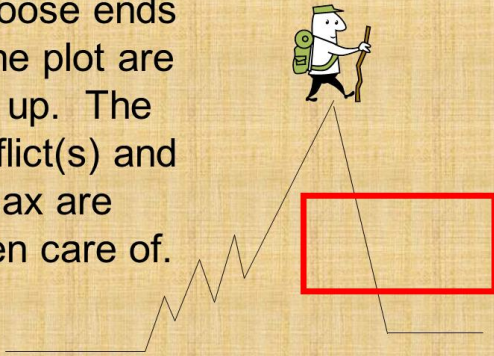
3. Climax

- This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way.



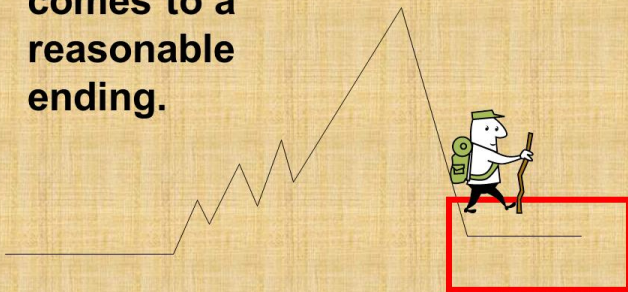
4. Falling Action

- All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict(s) and climax are taken care of.



5. Resolution

- The story comes to a reasonable ending.



Putting It All Together

1. Exposition → Beginning of Story
2. Rising Action
3. Climax → Middle of Story
4. Falling Action
5. Resolution → End of Story