

# Elements of Fiction

A. **Plot** = the series of related events that tell the reader “what happens” in a story...(4 Parts):

1. *Introduction (Exposition)* – intro to the story...the reader learns about the main *characters*, the *setting*, and the main *conflict* is set up.
2. *Complications (Events)* – rising actions/problems/events of the story...these are the events that deal with the conflict, build suspense, and that lead to the *climax*.
3. *Climax* – the high-point/most intense part...this event causes the

conflict to come to an end, one way or another (the turning point).  
***This is also the most important event of the story.***

4. **Resolution (Denouement)** – the end of the story...this is where any loose ends are tied up, the reader finds out what happens to the characters, and it may have possible lead-ins to any sequels.

B. **Characters** = the main characters that the plot is about...they can be a person, animal, or things, as long as they have a ***human-like personality***.

C. **Setting** = where and when the plot takes place (time & place)...this does not always have to be specific.

# Types of Conflicts in Stories

A. **External Conflict** = any conflict that is caused by “outside” opposing forces.

1. character vs. *another character*
2. character vs. *nature*
3. character vs. *group/society*
4. character vs. *destiny/fate*
5. character vs. *the supernatural*

B. **Internal Conflict** = any conflict that is caused by your own thoughts or feelings (inside you).

1. character vs. *self*

- C. **Protagonist** = the character trying to solve or stop the conflict (*the hero...but, not always!!!*)
- D. **Antagonist** = the character or force that is causing the conflict (*the villain...usually!!!*)

## Characters in Stories

- A. **Characterization** = when an author “reveals” what a character’s personality is like...creating a character & telling about and/or describing characters.
- B. **Types of Characterization**
1. **Author/Narrator tells (states) directly** about a character

2. Character's thoughts & feelings
3. Character's spoken words
4. Character's actions
5. Character's appearance
6. What other characters think and/or say about a character

### C. Dynamic & Static Characters

1. *Dynamic characters* = characters who change as the story progresses\*
  
2. *Static characters* = characters who stay the same throughout the whole story\*

**\*these changes are more about their personality...not their appearance.**

# Other Short Story Info

- A. **Foreshadowing** = hints or clues that predict what will happen later in the story...**this also increases suspense (*anxious curiosity*)** in the story.
- B. **Point-of-View** = the vantage point from which a story is told.
1. **Omniscient (3<sup>rd</sup> Person)** (all-knowing) = the narrator can tell everything about all the characters.
  2. **First-person (“I” p.o.v.)** = the narrator *is actually a character in the story.*

3. **Limited Third-person** = the narrator focuses on the thoughts/feelings of only one character.

C. **Theme** = the main idea/message the story expresses about life and people...themes are different for every reader, depending on one's own personality & experience in life.