## SHORT STORY ELEMENTS

## SETTING

- -The time and location in which a story takes place is called the setting.
  - Place: geographical location
  - **Time:** historical period, time of day, year, etc.
  - Weather Conditions: rainy, stormy, sunny, etc.
  - **Social Conditions:** What is the daily life of the characters like?
  - Mood or Atmosphere: What feeling is created at the beginning of the story? Is it bright and cheerful or dark and frightening?

### **PLOT**

It is the sequence of events in a story or play.

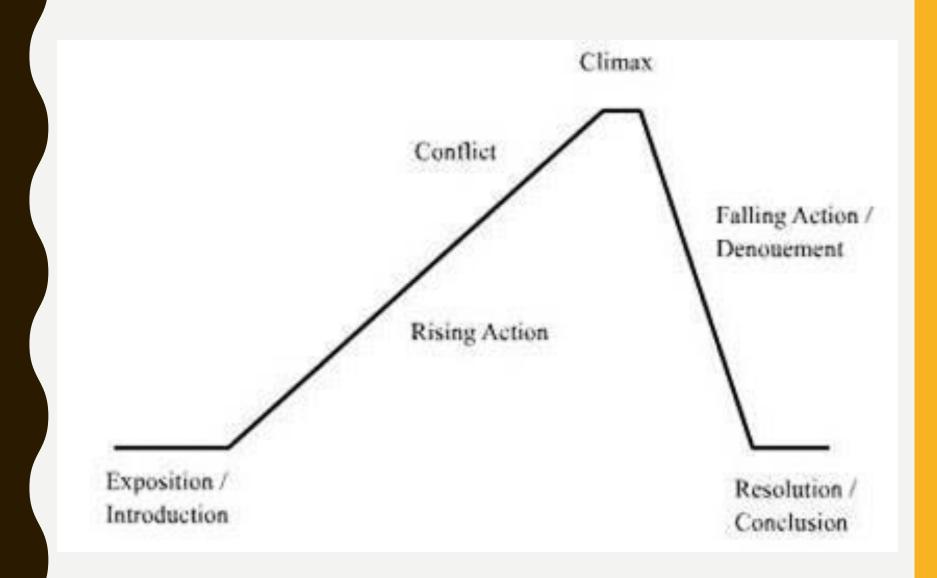
 Introduction: beginning of the story where characters and setting is revealed

**Rising Action:** where events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed (events between introduction and climax)

Climax: point of highest interest and the turning point

 Falling Action: events and complications begin to resolve themselves

Conclusion: untangling of events in the story





## CONFLICT

- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Himself
- Man vs. Nature
- Man vs. Supernatural
- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Circumstance

## CHARACTER

Two meanings for the word **character**:

• The Person in a work of fiction

Or

The characteristics of a person

#### PERSONS IN A WORK OF FICTION:

Short stories use few characters. One character is clearly central to the story with all major events having some importance to this character. He or she is the <u>PROTAGONIST</u>. If their actions are brave they can be defined as the <u>HERO</u>.

The opposer of the main character is called the ANTAGONIST.

If the antagonist is evil, or capable of cruel and criminal actions, he or

she is called the VILLIAN.



# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON:

- In order for a story to seem real to the reader its characters must seem real.
- His / her physical appearance
- What he / she says, thinks, feels, and dreams
- What he / she does or does not do
- What others say about him / her and how others react to him / her

## CHARACTERS ARE:

- Individual: round, many sided, and complex personalities (3D)
- **Developing**: dynamic, many sided personalities that change, for better or worse, by the end of the story
- **Static**: Stereotype, have one or two characteristics that never change and are emphasized e.g. brilliant detective, drunk, scrooge, cruel stepmother, etc. (2D)

## POINT OF VIEW

- First Person: story is told by person directly involved in the story (Uses pronouns I, me, we, etc.)
- Third Person: story is told by someone who is not personally involved in the story
- Third Person Omniscient: story is told by person who is not personally involved in the story but who knows what the characters are thinking and feeling.



• The author's main idea that he / she is trying to convey

#### **Examples**:

- -Things are not always as they appear to be
- -Love is blind
- -Believe in yourself
- -People are afraid of change.
- -Don't judge a book by its cover