Short Story Terms

- **Short story** - a brief work of fiction where, usually the main character faces a conflict that is worked out in the plot of the story
- **Character** - a person in a story, poem or play
- **Types of characters**:  
  - Round - fully developed, has many different character traits  
  - Flat - stereotyped, one dimensional, few traits  
  - Static - does not change  
  - Dynamic - changes as a result of the story's events
- **Characterization** - how the author develops the characters, especially the main character
  - This is done through:  
    - What the character does or says  
    - What others say of and to the character  
    - Authors word choice in descriptive passages
- **Direct Characterization** - the author directly states what the character's personality is like (ex. Cruel, kind)
- **Indirect Characterization** - showing a character's personality through his/her actions, thoughts, feelings, words, appearance, or other character's observations or reactions
- **Protagonist** - main character of the story that changes
  - Death is not a change  
  - The most important character  
  - Changes and grows because of experiences in the story
- **Antagonist** - a major character who opposes the protagonist
  - The antagonist does not change  
  - Types of antagonist:  
    - People  
    - Nature  
    - Society
- **Conflict** - a struggle between 2 opposing conflicts
  - Types:  
    - Internal: takes place in a character's own mind  
      - Man vs. self  
    - External - a struggle against an outside force  
      - Man vs. man  
      - Man vs. nature  
      - Man vs. technology/progress  
      - Man vs. society  
      - Man vs. supernatural
- **Plot** - series of related events that make up a story
- **Exposition** - section that introduces characters, the setting and conflicts
- **Setting** - the time and place of the story's action
- **Rising action** - consists of a series of complications
  - These occur when the main characters take action to resolve their problems and are met with further problems  
    - Fear  
    - Hostility  
    - Threatening situation