

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 characters 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