

E. Owens - Figurative Language and Literary Terms

Characters: Protagonist – main character (pro=we are for)

Antagonist – character going against the main character who/that is causing the conflict (anti=we are against) Could be family It could be the protagonist in an internal conflict.

Theme: main concept or idea within a story – “point of the story or lesson”- A general statement that does NOT mention the story at all – it’s about life in general: “*Be nice to people.*” is a theme for Cinderella

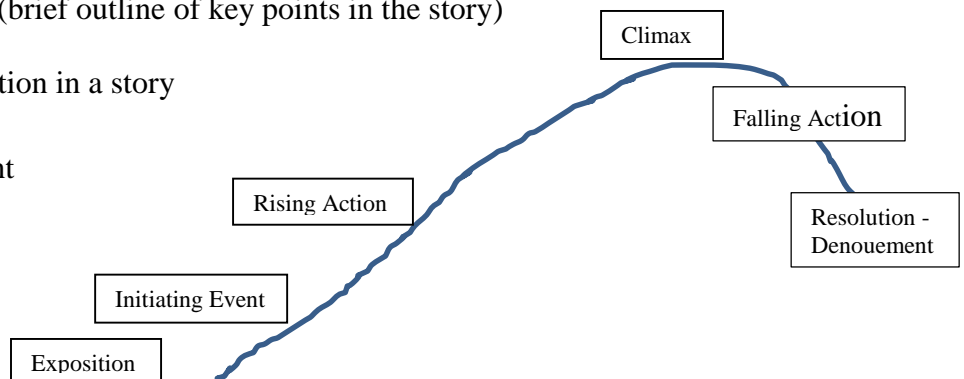
Point of view: – perspective from which the story is told. A narrator (story teller) tells the story (narrative)

- 1st person – the character was there (I, me, us, we)
- 3rd person – they didn’t see it, they heard about it (they, them, he, she), or they are observers
- Limited – they only know what they see or hear
- Omniscient – they know what characters are thinking and doing- they know all (like Santa)

Plot: – sequence of events in a story (brief outline of key points in the story)

Plot curve: illustrates (shows) the action in a story

- Exposition
- Conflict or Initiating Event
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action
- Resolution/Denouement



- Exposition: beginning of story that includes setting (time & place) and introduces the characters may be given by a narrator or a character in the story
- Conflict: problem faced by the protagonist – must be solved – a struggle between two forces
 - Internal conflict – struggle within oneself (pride, love, hurt)
 - Individual vs Self (Man vs Self)
 - External conflict: struggle with someone outside oneself – somehow they are causing a problem
 - Individual vs Individual (up to 2 people) – sometimes also referred to as Man vs Man
 - Individual vs Nature(animals, weather, environment – ocean, mountains, yard)
 - Individual vs Society (meeting a group’s expectations)
 - Individual vs Technology (car, phone, chair, building, etc.)
 - Individual vs Supernatural (spirit, ghost, unexplained being)
- Rising Action: events caused by the conflict or initiating event that lead up to the climax
- Climax: (turning point – the decision affects the outcome) – usually near the end of story
- Falling action: the events following the climax that lead to the resolution (ending)
- Resolution: how everything is solved
- Denouement: final thoughts/events