

Literary Elements



LITERARY ELEMENTS REFER TO THE DIFFERENT FEATURES FOUND IN A FICTIONAL PIECE OF LITERATURE.



Characters



- **Characters** are the **person/people** or **animal(s)** who takes part in the action of a story, play or other literary work.
- **Characterization** refers to the creation and development of the people in the story.



Setting



- **Setting** refers to the **time** and **place** in which the events of a piece of literature take place.
- The “**when**” and “**where**” of the story



Theme



- The **theme** of a story refers to the truth about life revealed in a work of literature.
- The **central idea** or **lesson about life** that an author is trying to make
- A repeated idea incorporated throughout the story



Tone



- **Tone** refers to the **attitude** of the author toward the subject or an audience.
- **Tone** is generally conveyed by the **choice of words**, or the view point of a writer on a particular subject.



“It was a dark and gloomy night...”

Mood



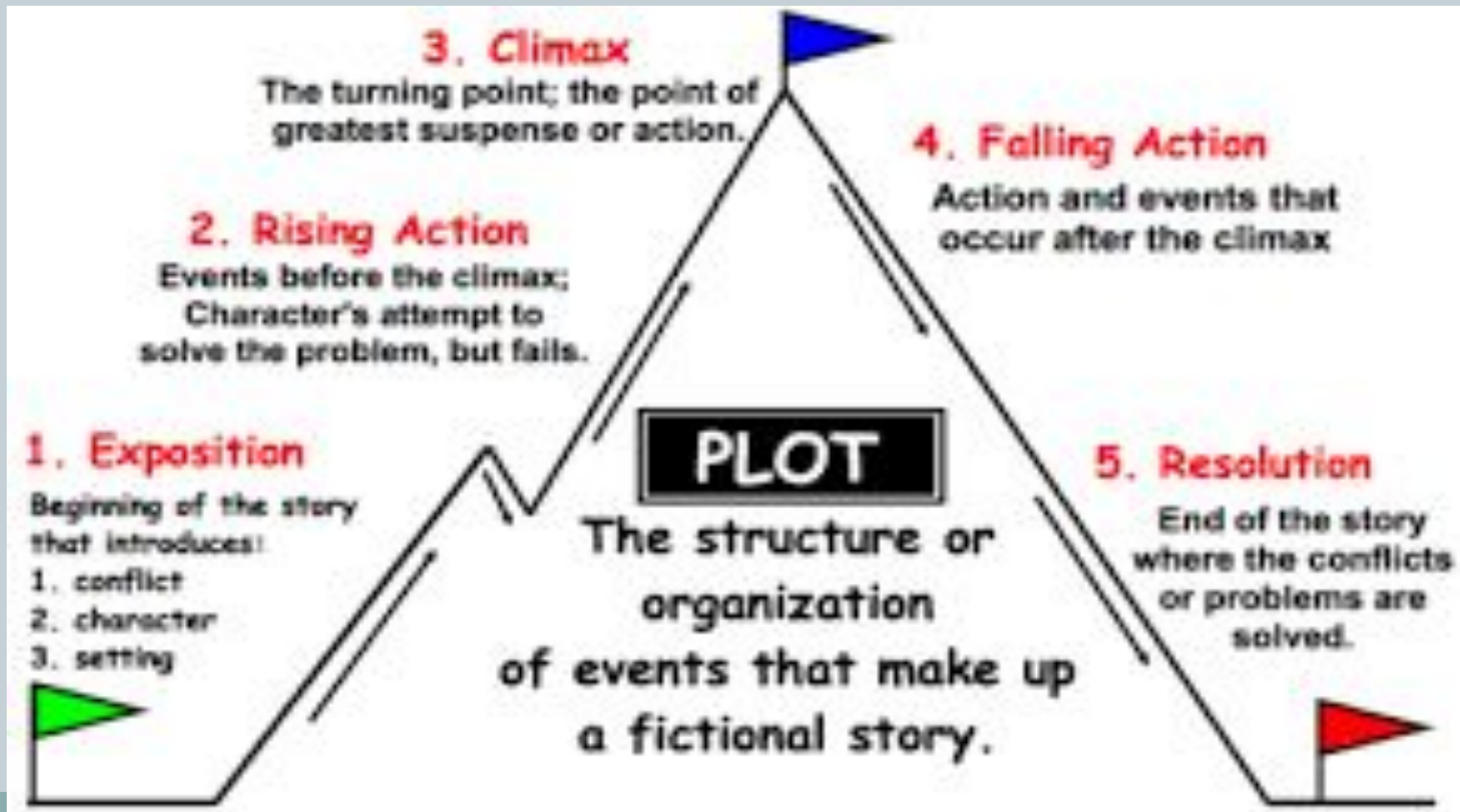
- **Mood** refers to what the reader **feels** when reading a story.
- The reader's mood is influenced by the author's word choice.



Plot



- **Plot** is the **sequence of events** or happenings that make up a story.



Conflict



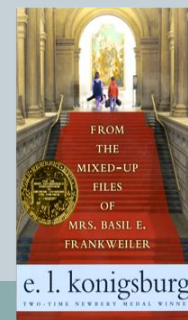
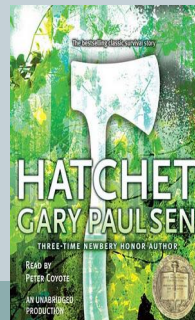
- **Conflict** is the struggle that the main character faces.
- Often the **conflict** involves a struggle between the **protagonist** (the hero) and the **antagonist** (the villain).
- The 5 basic conflicts involve *Character vs. **Self***, *Character vs. **Character***, *Character vs. **Nature***, *Character vs. **Fate*** or *Character vs. **Society***



Point of View



- **Point of View** refers to the position from whom the story is told.
- Some popular points of view...
 1. **First Person:** the narrator is a character in the story and tells the story from his or her perspective (uses the words “I”, “we”, “my”)
 2. **Third Person:** the narrator is an invisible storyteller who reports the events of the story (uses the words “he”, “she” or “they”)



Symbolism



- **Symbolism** is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense.



Foreshadowing



- **Foreshadowing** is a literary technique in which a writer gives an advance **hint** of what is to come later in the story.



Flashback



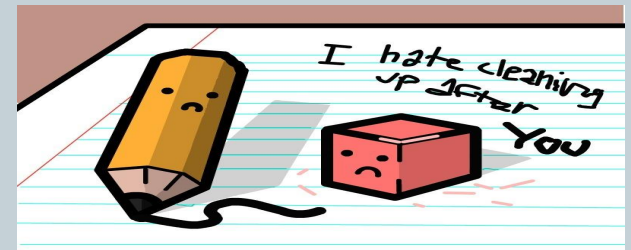
- **Flashbacks** are interruptions that writers do to insert **past events** in order to provide background or **context** to the current events of a narrative.



Irony



- **Irony** is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words.
- A “Twist of Fate”
- It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated. In simple words, it is a **difference between the appearance and the reality.**



Literary Techniques



- **Literary Techniques** are used by an author to help develop a storyline.
- They make the story more interesting and lead to greater understanding of the author's meaning.

