

Grade 9 ELA - STORY TERMS

Allusion – a reference to a person or event from history or literature, e.g., “He was a real Romeo”

***Antagonist** – the major character in a narrative or drama that works against the hero or protagonist

Atmosphere – the overall feeling we get from the story from words and images used to describe the setting, e.g., cheerful, anxious, menacing.

Character – is a person in the story

Character Sketch – a brief description of a character that shows attitudes, feelings, thoughts, and personality. It also describes if a person changes in the story.

Conflict – a struggle between opposing forces; conflict may be described as:

internal – a struggle inside a person;

external – a struggle against the environment/nature or society, or struggle against another person (interpersonal)

Conflicts may also be described as:

main – the central conflict that moves the plot forward;

minor – secondary conflict that does not influence the plot a great deal

Dialogue – the actual words that characters speak

Flashback – presenting something that happened before the story that helps explain the current situation.

Foreshadowing – provides clues about events that may happen later in the story.

Irony – can be defined as:

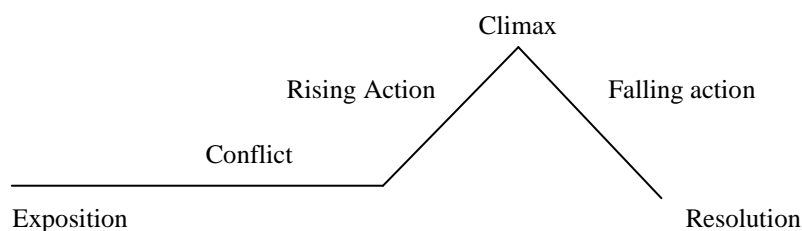
Verbal Irony – when what a character says and thinks he or she means is actually different from what the audience perceives is meant;

Situational Irony – when there is a difference between what is expected to happen and what actually does happen;

Narrator – the speaker who tells the story

Plot – the author’s arrangement of events that make up the action of a story; includes:

- *Exposition* – background material about the characters, setting, and situation
- *Conflict* – any obstacle/problem that increases the tension of the story;
- *Rising action* – a series of events in the story that builds the suspense
- *Climax* – the moment when the action comes to its highest point of conflict
- *Resolution* – pulls together all the loose threads of the story



Point of view – the perspective from which the story is told. Includes:

First person (eg. I) – the narrator participates in the action of the story;

Third person (eg. he, she, Mary, Mr. Tucker, etc.) – the narrator does not participate in the action of the story; may be classified as:

- 1) Omniscient – the narrator presents the thoughts of more than one of the characters;
- 2) Limited – the narrator presents only his or her own thoughts which is only one side of the story

***Protagonist** – the main character in a story

Setting – time, place and circumstances of a story

Suspense – how the author keeps the reader interested and wondering what will happen next

Theme – the story’s main message or statement