

Elements of Literature

“Like most people, you know a ‘good’ story when you read one. However, can you put into words why you liked it? If not, the following glossary of what ‘goes into’ a story (they elements) will help you discuss or write about what you’ve read.” Write Source 2000

Action	refers to everything that goes on or happens in a _____
The Protagonist	Is the _____ of the story
The _____	Is the person or thing fighting against the hero in a story; The _____ or “negative force.”
A Character	Is a _____ in a story
Setting	Is the _____ and _____ of the story
Plot	Is the _____ of the story. The action is usually made up of a series of events called the plot _____.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposition	Part of the story (usually the beginning) which explains the background and _____ of the story; they _____ are often introduced in the exposition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ Action	The central part of the story during which various _____ arise
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climax	Is the _____ point (turning point) in the action of the story
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ Action	That part of a story which follows the _____ or turning point; it contains the action or dialogue necessary to lead the story to a resolution or _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution	Is the satisfying end of the story --- that part in which the _____ are solved
Conflict	Is the “problem” in a story which triggers action. There are _____ basic types of conflict,
1. External conflict	A conflict in which a character struggles against some _____ force. There are four basic kinds of external conflict.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person vs. Person	One character in a story has a _____ with one or more of the other characters
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person vs. _____	A character has a conflict or problem with society-the law, the school, a tradition, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person vs. Nature	A character has a problem with some element of _____: a snowstorm, an avalanche, a wild animal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person vs. _____	A character has to battle what seems to be an uncontrollable problem
2. _____	A conflict which takes place within the mind of a character. There is one basic type.
Conflict	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person vs. Him/Herself	A character struggles inside and has trouble _____ what to do.

Point of View

Is the _____ from which the story is told. This depends on who is telling the story.

1. first-person point of view

One of the characters tells the story using the word “ _____ ”

2. third-person point of view

Someone _____ is telling the story. The author is not always the person telling the story. There are two basic types of third-person points of view:

- _____
- **Limited omniscient**

Third-person point of view which allows the narrator to relate the thoughts and feelings of all the characters.

Allows the narrator to relate the thoughts and feelings of only _____ character.

The _____

Is the person or character who is telling the story.

Dialogue

Refers to the _____ that goes on between characters in a story

Tone

Is the author’s _____ or feeling about a piece of writing. The author’s tone may be serious, sarcastic, _____, etc.

Is the central message or main idea that is written about or discussed

Mood

Is the feeling(s) a _____ gets from a story: happy, sad, peaceful, etc.

Irony

Is when you _____ something to happen, but the _____ happens instead.

Foreshadowing

The use of _____ to suggest what is going to occur in a story

Flashback

Technique to tell the reader about something that _____ earlier.

Plot Line

