

CHARACTERIZATION

types of characters

MAJOR (or central) characters are those vital to the development and resolution of the plot.

MINOR characters are less central, and serve to complement the major characters and help move the plot events forward.

PROTAGONIST - The central (main) character(s) in the story. They are often faced with a conflict to overcome, and are central to the plot.

ANTAGONIST - The antagonist is the character(s) who stands in opposition to the protagonist.

DYNAMIC characters are those who change over time, usually as a result of resolving a conflict or facing a crisis.

STATIC characters are those who do not change over time; his or her personality does not transform or evolve.

ROUND - A rounded character is anyone who has a complex personality; he or she is often portrayed as a conflicted.

FLAT - A flat character is the opposite of a round one. This type of character is known for one kind of personality trait or characteristic.

STOCK characters are those who've become stereotypical through repeated use in stories (e.g. the damsel in distress, the mad scientist, the evil clown, the faithful sidekick).

types of characterization

There are two types of characterization:

DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION
explicitly tells the reader what the personality of the character is.
For example: "Tony was a gentle, caring man."

INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION
shows things that reveal the personality of a character, through their speech and actions.
For example: "Gently, Tony told the girl that he would look after her."



ANALYZING SHORT STORIES

CHARACTERIZATION

In literature, characterization is the process by which a writer reveals the physical features and personality of a character - it is how they construct the character and present them to the reader.



characterization

CHARACTERIZATION

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Identify the **protagonist** and describe them in as much detail as possible.



2

ANALYZING SHORT STORIES

Identify a **flat** character in the story, and explain *why* they are considered a flat character.



CHARACTERIZATION

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ANALYZING SHORT STORIES

Identify a **round** character in the story, and explain their complexity, or the change in their character.



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Identify the **antagonist** in the story (if there is one) and the role they play.



CHARACTERIZATION

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Quote a line from the story which shows an example of **indirect** characterization.



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Quote a line from the story which shows an example of **direct** characterization.



SETTING

The time of day or time of year can be important: think about the possible differences between a horror story being set in summer, with being set in winter.



Knowing where characters are, can give context to their actions: think about how a character might act differently depending on whether they are in a familiar or unfamiliar place.



Setting can help to create the mood (how the reader feels): think about the difference between a story opening on a warm, sunny day, compared with a dark, stormy night.



Setting can create background to the story: think about the assumptions you make if a story is set in a high school, compared with if it is set in a factory.



things to think about

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SETTING

The setting of a piece of literature is the time and place in which the story takes place.



setting

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SETTING

Describe the setting in as much detail as possible.



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SETTING

How important is the **geographical** setting in this story? What does it contribute to the story?



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SETTING

Do we know **when** this story is set? (future? past? present?) Does it matter?



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SETTING

Is the **weather** - or any elements of nature - significant in this story? Explain why or why not.



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SETTING

Find a **quotation** from the story which shows something of the importance of the setting.



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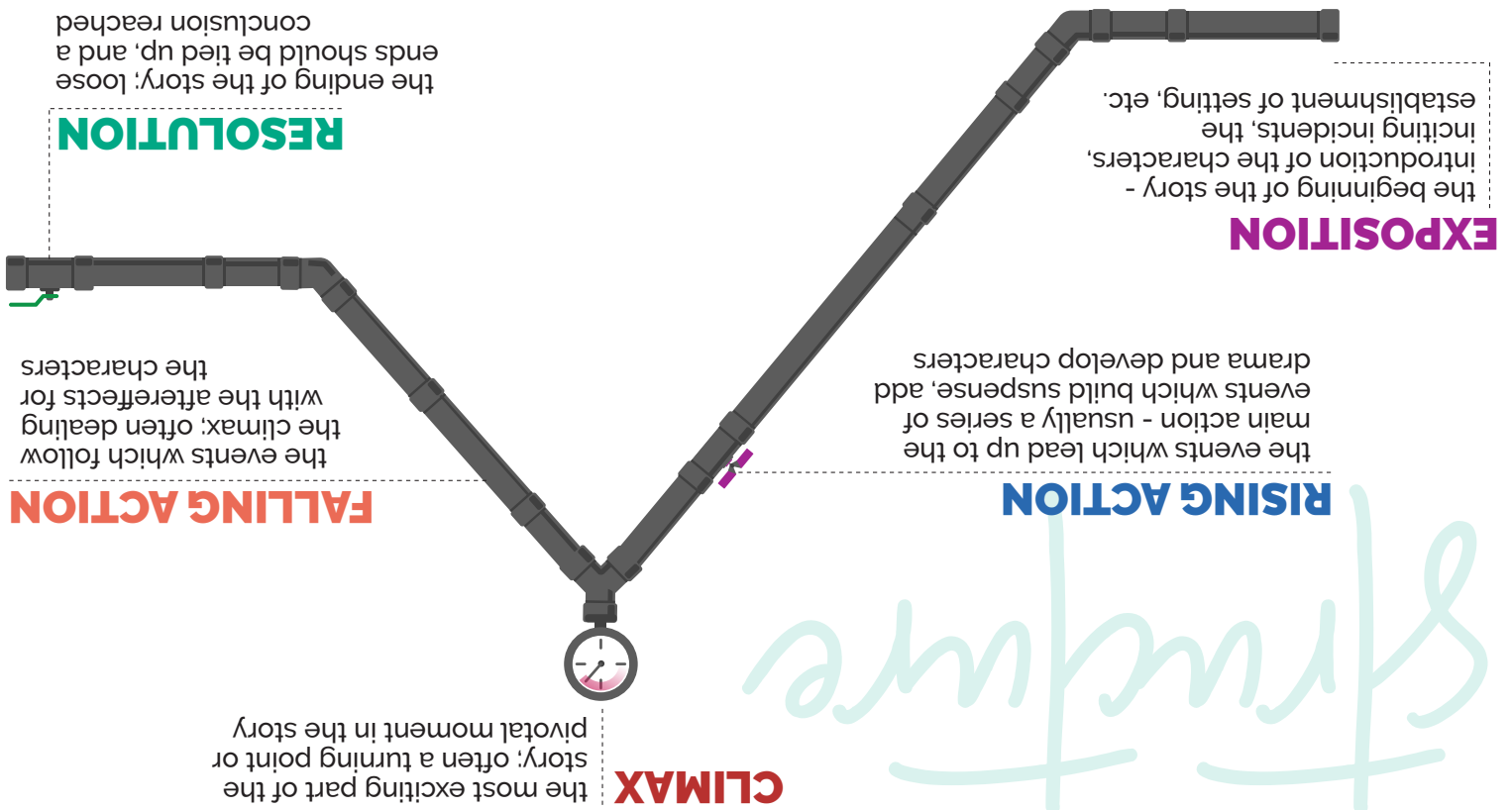
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SETTING

How does the setting contribute to the portrayal of the story's underlying **theme**?



PLOT



ANALYZING SHORT STORIES

PLOT

The plot is the series of events that make up a story, presented as an interrelated sequence.



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PLOT

What background information are we given in the **exposition**?



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PLOT

Identify and explain the **climax** of the story.



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PLOT

List at least 3 important events of the **rising action**.



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PLOT

How is the plot **resolved** in this story? Are there any elements which you feel are unresolved?



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PLOT

Identify and explain any elements of **suspense** or **foreshadowing** in this story.



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PLOT

Comment on the **timeline** of the plot. Does it follow a linear timeline? Why or why not?



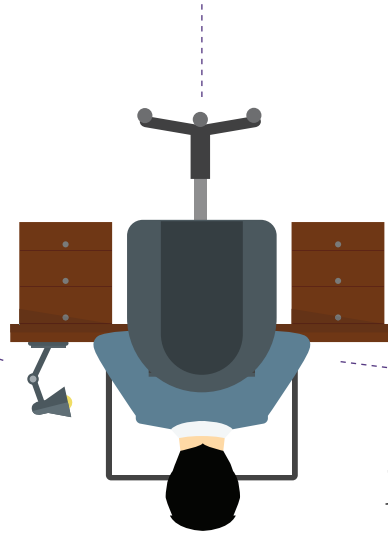
NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

The word omniscient roughly means 'all knowing' – therefore the omniscient narrator is one who narrates the thoughts and feelings of many (or all) of the different characters in a story.

Third-Person Omniscient

Second-Person
A second-person narrator uses the pronoun 'you' to address the reader directly. It is rarely used in literature as it forces the reader into being a 'character' in the story (which they may be reluctant to be). However, it is used in guide books, recipes, business presentations etc.

First-Person
In a first-person narrative, the story is revealed through a narrator who is also a character within the story. First-person narration is easy to identify, because the narrator will be telling the story from his/her perspective and therefore will use the pronoun "I" or "we".



Third-Person Limited
The narrator's view is limited to the internal workings of one character (usually the protagonist). The narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of this character, but no others.

Third-Person Objective
The narrator tells a third-person's story (he, she, him, her), but the narrator only describes characters' actions and dialogue – the narrator does not reveal any character's thoughts or feelings.

types of narrator

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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Also known as narrative point of view, narrative perspective is the lens through which a story is communicated.



narrator

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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Find a **quotation** from the text which clearly evidences the narrative perspective.

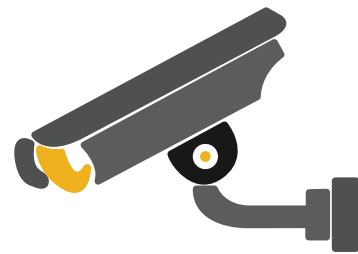


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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

From **whose** perspective is the story told?

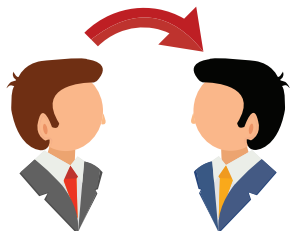


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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

How would the story be **different** if it were told from a different perspective?



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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Explain how the point of view influences the reader's **opinion** of the characters in the story?



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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

How does the narrative perspective **limit** the reader's viewpoint? Why might the author have chosen to do this?



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NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

How does the choice of narrative perspective **impact** or **influence** the story?





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THEME

An underlying idea that recurs in, or pervades, a work of literature; often the main 'message' of the story.



theme

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THEME

List all of the **topics** explored within this story (think of one-word abstract nouns).



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THEME

Explain the central **message** being conveyed through this story.



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THEME

Quote a line, or explain an event which clearly evidences the theme of the story.



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THEME

Identify and explain any **symbolism** in the story. How does it help convey the theme?



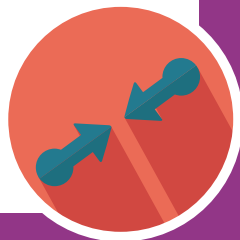
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THEME

What is the central **conflict** in the story? How does it relate to the theme?



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THEME

How do the words or actions of **characters** help to convey the theme?

