

Short Story Elements:

Plot: exposition (introduces characters, setting, background info) → inciting incident → rising action → climax → falling action → denouement (gives small details for ending the story) → resolution

Conflict: internal/external

Person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. nature, person vs. society

Setting: place/time (physical), feeling/mood (emotional)

Word Choice: syntax (sentence structure) / diction (choice of words)

Character: protagonist (main character), antagonist (against main character)

Flat or round / static or dynamic

Point of View: perspective, 1st/3rd person

Symbols: literal meaning → figurative or symbolic meaning

Theme: underlying message from title, drive of story, motifs, symbols, and allusions

Literary Devices:

Allegory: characters stand for abstract concepts

Alliteration: repetition at close intervals of consonant sounds

Allusion: a reference to something in literature, mythology, etc. (something considered common knowledge)

Ambiguity: double or multiple meanings

Appeals: persuasive strategy to the audience

- **Logos:** logical arguments
- **Ethos:** shows speaker's status or authority for credibility
- **Pathos:** emotional side, making audience feel angry or sympathetic

Apostrophe: talking to an object as if it's alive

Aside: a passage in a play heard by the audience but not by other characters in the play

Assonance: a resemblance of sounds of words or syllables between vowels or consonants

Characterization: techniques to develop characters

Cliche: overused element to losing its original meaning

Colloquial: informal way of speech

Consonance: repetition of same consonant in nearby words

Flashback: a scene that happened earlier in the story

Foil: a character who contrasts significantly to another character

Foreshadowing: using hints or clues to indicate events that will happen later

Genre: type of work with unique style, tone, elements, etc.

Hyperbole: exaggerated elements for emphasis or humorous effect

Imagery: words and phrases that create vivid images for the reader

Irony: contrast between appearance and reality

- **Verbal irony:** writer says something but means something entirely different
- **Situational irony:** something happens that is completely different from what's expected
- **Dramatic irony:** reader knows something that the characters do not

Jargon: special words or expressions used by a specific group that is difficult for others to understand

Juxtaposition: putting 2 things next to each other to compare

Metaphor: an analogy or comparison is made between 2 unlike things

Mood: feeling or atmosphere that the writer creates, using connotative words, sensory images, etc.

Motif: unifying element in an artistic work, especially any recurring image, symbol, theme, character type, subject or narrative detail

Onomatopoeia: formation or use of words suggested by the sound of the word itself

Oxymoron: 2 contradictory words or phrases are combined in a single expression, effect of a condensed paradox

Pathetic Fallacy: human feelings are reflected in the things that occur in weather

Paradox: a type of self-contradictory metaphor to attract attention and provoke fresh thought

Personification: human qualities or characteristics are given to an animal, object, or concept

Pun: a form of wit, not necessarily funny, involving playing on a word with 2+ meanings

Refrain: a phrase or line repeated at intervals within a poem, especially at the end of a stanza

Rhetorical Question: a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect to make a point rather than getting an answer

Rhyme: same syllables

Satire: Foolish ideas or customs are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society

Simile: 2 unlike things are compared, using words such as like, as, than, similar to, etc.

Soliloquy: A dramatic convention in which a character speaks his/her thoughts aloud alone on stage

Stream of Consciousness: Presents a flow of thoughts, responses, and sensations of 1+ characters

Stanza: A poetic paragraph

Symbolism: A person, object, idea or action that stands for something else

Syntax: Sentence structure

Tone: The writer or speaker's attitude toward a subject