

Narrative – a type of writing that tells a story; *narrator tells a story*

Characters – individuals in a story

Protagonist – the main character in a story; *this character is in a struggle to resolve the conflict*

Antagonist – the opponent of the protagonist; *the character who may get in the way or whose actions may keep the protagonist from resolving the conflict*

Setting – the time, place and general environment of a story; *may be specific or general , may be very important to the story or not at all important to the story*

Plot – a series of events that happen in the story. *Planned by the author; show the characters in action*

Exposition – any facts or background knowledge the reader needs in order to understand the story. *Sets the tone, presents the setting and characters; the introduction*

Conflict – the major struggle of the protagonist. *Can be internal or external; struggle is between two opposing forces; usually presented early in the story; Four basic conflicts include person v. person, person v. self, person v. nature, person v. society*

Rising Action – events in the story in which the protagonist attempts to resolve the conflict. *Create suspense and interest in the story; help us learn about the characters*

Climax – The point at which action comes to a peak and the reader knows how the story will end. The conflict is finished. *Often called the turning point; often the highest interest or emotion; often protagonist either “wins” or “loses”*

Falling Action – Any action or information that occurs after the climax. *The readers’ questions are answered; also called denouement which means to unknot, untie, unravel*

Resolution – How the story ends. *Reader has a sense of completeness; it is over.*

Theme – The main point the author is trying to make; *authors use rising action events, dialogue, objects, emotions, thoughts and the protagonist’s struggle to reveal the theme; author rarely comes right out and says it, reader often has to use clues to infer/synthesize the theme; it is not the topic; theme makes a statement or expresses an opinion often about the topic; very often connected to the question: What did the protagonist learn from this struggle?*