

Common Literary Elements

- **Character:** the person(s) that our story is centered around; protagonist/antagonist.
 - *Protagonist:* our main character/character that changes throughout the story
 - *Antagonist:* the person that is going against the protagonist
- **Plot:** the series of events that make up a story.
 - *Exposition:* when readers learn about the characters and the conflicts they experience.
 - *Rising Action:* the suspense that builds due to the conflicts that occur to keep the main character from reaching their goals.
 - *Climax:* when the interest of the reader is at its highest point; the turning point of the story.
 - *Falling Action:* the part of the plot that occurs after the climax has been reached... wrapping up the story.
 - *Resolution:* the solution to the main conflict/problem.
- **Setting:** where the story takes place
- **Conflict:** the central problem around which a story revolves around.
 - *Internal conflict*
 - Person vs. Self: when the main character is dealing with their own mind holding them back. This typically occurs when the main character is experiencing self-doubt or trying to become a better person.
 - *External conflict*
 - Person vs. Person: usually involves two characters with different outlooks, opinions, or goals.
 - Person vs. Nature: usually involves a character dealing with an animal, weather, or some other phenomenon that occurs in nature.
 - Person vs. Society: when the character is faced with issues involving the government, institution, tradition, or law.

- Person vs. Technology: when the main character is dealing with an issue where science moves beyond human control.
 - Person vs. Supernatural: when the main character is dealing with supernatural phenomena such as vampires, werewolves, aliens, ghosts, etc.
- **Point of View**: the voice in which the story is told (different from the narrator, who is the voice that is telling the story).
 - *1st*: I, me, we
 - *2nd*: you
 - *3rd*: he, she, they, them
- **Symbolism**: the use of words or images to represent specific concepts, ideas, people, objects, or events.
 - Ex: Blue symbolizes sadness
- **Theme**: the central idea(s) that a piece of writing explores; an idea plus an opinion: it is the author's specific views regarding the central ideas of the work.
 - Ex: Good vs Evil, Family, Friendship, Coming of Age
- **Mood**: the feeling the reader gets from the story.
- **Tone**: the author's attitude towards a subject.