

Plot and Structure

1. Plot is:

It is not the action itself... it is

2. Plot: Commercial Literature

Commercial Lit: a)

b)

Artistic Literature

a) Plot may be

b) May be

Conflict: The clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills.

Protagonist vs a)

b)

c)

Can be: a)

b)

c)

d)

these)

(and artistic literature strives to meet all of

Protagonist and Antagonist

Protagonist:

Antagonist:

Excellent Literary Fiction

Often use four types of conflict in one work: a)

b)

c)

d)

Not always be _____. May be _____. May not be _____.

Suspense:

Readers are _____.

Suspense

Commercial:

Artistic: Why _____? How do we _____? This will lead to the _____.

Mystery:

Dilemma:

Suspense

Commercial:

Artistic:

Surprise Endings:

Two ways to judge a surprise ending

Is it fair?

Is it there just to shock and titillate?

Happy Endings

Commercial Lit: Almost always _____

Literary Fiction: Almost always _____.

Unhappy Endings

Illuminate life: Life sometimes sucks. _____

Forces us to contemplate _____

Keeps us _____

Endings ... Should reveal _____

Can have an INDETERMINATE ENDING: _____

Should show ARTISTIC UNITY: _____

Plot No No's

Plot manipulation: Turn in the plot that is unjustified by situation and character.

Deus Ex Machina: Plot end relies too much on chance and coincidence (an angel descends from Heaven and saves the protagonist or it was all just a dream).

Chance and Coincidence

Chance: Event with no apparent cause

Coincidence: Chance occurrence of two events happening.

Both have a place in literature just like life

They can start a story, but they should not end a story!

Message for Today

Plot is more than:

Don't look at the plot: Consider the function of the plot in understanding the relationship between each incident/the larger meaning of the story: The _____.