

## Story Elements Worksheet

Directions: Keep this sheet in your English notebook. We will use it for basic literary analysis throughout the year. When answering questions, make sure that you label each section and question, and answer each question in complete sentences.

### **Plot** (what happens)

*Conflict (internal and external)*

*Exposition*

*Rising Action*

*Climax*

*Falling action*

*Resolution (denouement)*

1. What is the conflict? Is it internal, external, or both?
2. What are the chief episodes or incidents which make up the plot? Is it developed chronologically or is it chronologically rearranged in some way? (flashback, foreshadowing)
3. Compare the plot's beginning and end. What essential changes have taken place?
4. Label the plot in terms of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution

### **Setting** (where and when the story takes place)

*Geographical location*

*Immediate surroundings*

*Time in history*

*Time of year*

*Time of day*

1. What is the work's setting in time and space?
2. How does the author establish setting? Can the reader *see* the setting? *Feel* it?
3. What is the function of the setting? Is it important to the mood, plot, etc?
4. Is the setting appropriate?

### **Character** (who or what receives action)

*Protagonist*-story good guy

*Antagonist*-story bad guy

*Flat*-no real personality; more a stereotype

*Round*-like a real person; has many traits

*Static*-remains the same throughout the story

*Dynamic*-changes and grows throughout the story

*Foils*-characters are purposely paired or set against each other for contrast

1. Who is the protagonist?
2. Who is the antagonist?
3. Are the characters round or flat? Static or dynamic? Support your answer.
4. Are the characters credible and interesting? Support your answer

## **Point of View** (how the story is told)

*First person*

*Third person*

\*omniscient-all knowing

\*limited omniscient-narrator knows and sees only what one central character knows and sees

\*objective or dramatic- narrator disappears and there is no way of entering the minds of the characters

-called dramatic because it is viewing the work from the outside, like a play

1. What is the point of view; who talks to the reader?
2. If the point of view is one of the characters, is the narrator reliable?
3. Given the author's purpose, is the chosen point of view an appropriate one (is the best person telling the story?)
4. How might the work change if told from another perspective?

**Theme**-(The Point-What does the author want us to take away from the story and apply to our daily lives?)

*Stated*-does the author come out and tell us the point?

*Implied*-is the point hinted at, but we are left to draw our own conclusions?

1. Does the work have a theme? Is it stated or implied?
2. What generalizations or statements about life or human experience does the work make?

## **Symbolism** (what is suggested)

*Symbol*-something that stands for something else

*Allegory*-technique for expanding the meaning of a literary work by having the characters and sometimes the setting and events represent certain abstract ideas, qualities, or concepts-usually in a fixed, definite, and easily understood way

1. What symbols or patterns of symbolism are present in the story?

**Style** (how the story is told in terms of specific formal techniques and devices of language)

*Diction*-imagery, allusions, figures of speech

*Dialect*-different speech patterns among speakers of the same language

*Syntax*-the way words, phrases, and sentences are arranged

*Dialogue*-conversation which can advance the action or help develop characters

*Tone*-speaker's attitude toward subject

*Irony*-a difference in what is expected-verbal, situational, or dramatic

1. Does the author use imagery, figures of speech, patterns of rhythm and sound, allusions?
2. Are the sentences mostly long or short, simple or complex?
3. What kinds of irony does the author use? What purpose does the irony serve?
4. Describe the author's tone. Is it sympathetic or detached? Is it serious or humorous?