

Elements of a Short Story



7th Grade Language Arts
Mrs. Wilson

Definition of a Short Story

- ▶ Tells about a single event or experience
- ▶ Fictional (not true)
- ▶ 500 to 15,000 words in length
- ▶ It has a beginning, middle, and end
- ▶ Creates an impression on the reader



Elements of a Short Story

- Setting
- Characterization
- Plot
- Conflict
- Climax
- Resolution
- Theme
- Point of view



Short Story Vocabulary

- **Setting:** Tells the reader where and when the story takes place.
- It's the character's environment including the season, weather, time of day, year, exact location, geographical features, and everything else that is possibly in their surroundings.



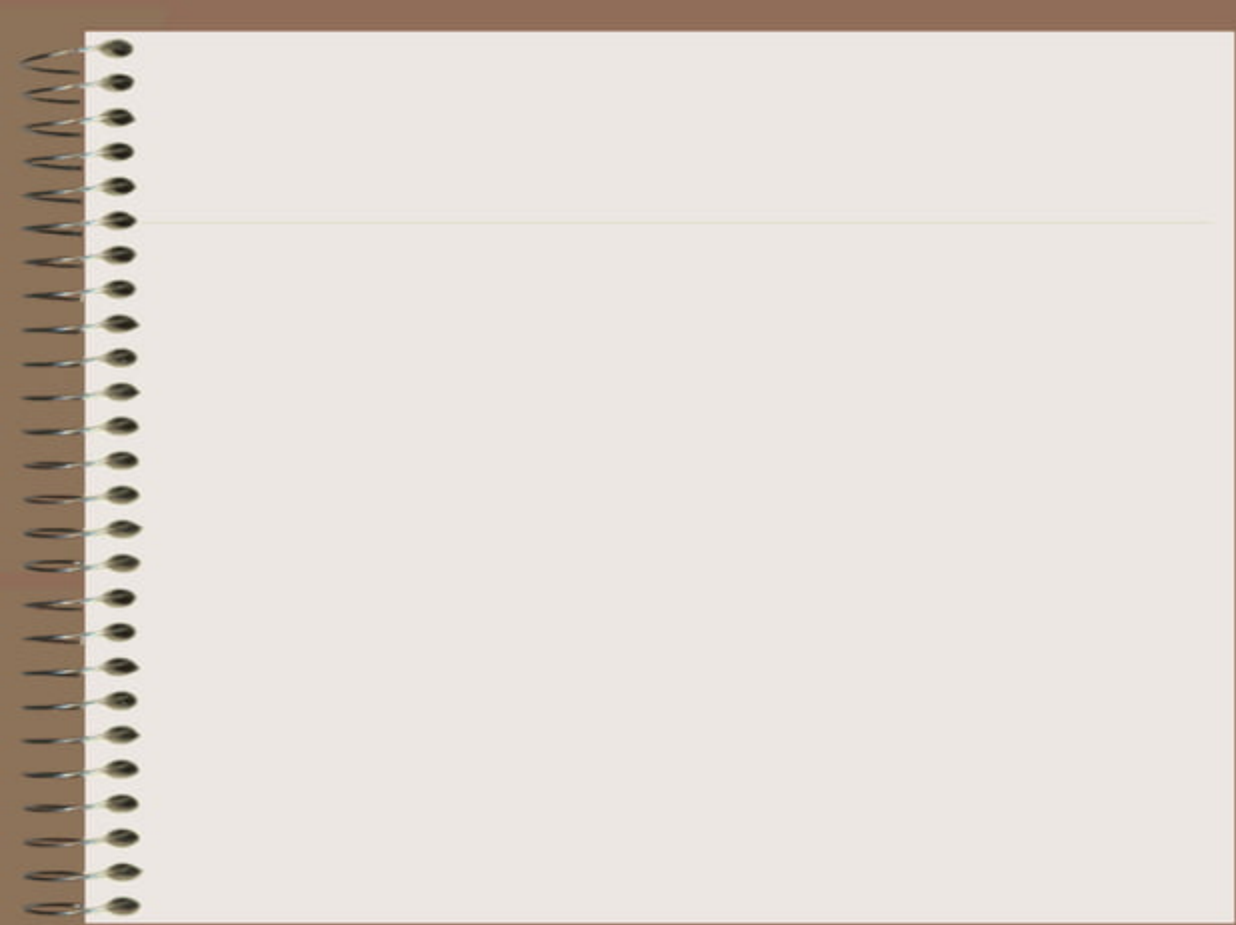
Short Story Vocabulary

- **Characterization:**

Creation of imaginary people who appear to be real to the reader. The writer gives information about the characters in the story.

- Authors characterize by:
**indirect and direct
characterization**





Short Story Vocabulary

- **Plot:** A series of events through which the writer reveals what is happening, to whom, and why.



Short Story Vocabulary

- **Conflict:** Is a problem in the story that needs to be resolved.
- **Types of Conflict:**
 - Man vs. Man
 - Man vs. Himself
 - Man vs. Nature
 - Man vs. Society



Short Story Vocabulary

- **Climax:** When the action comes to its highest point of conflict.
- Here there is a turning point in the action; a shift in the story occurs.



Short Story Vocabulary

- **Resolution:** The story's action after the climax until the end of the story. Where all the loose ends are tied up. This falling action leads to the "conclusion" of the story.



Short Story Vocabulary

- **Theme:** The story's main ideas. The "message" the writer intends to communicate by telling the story.

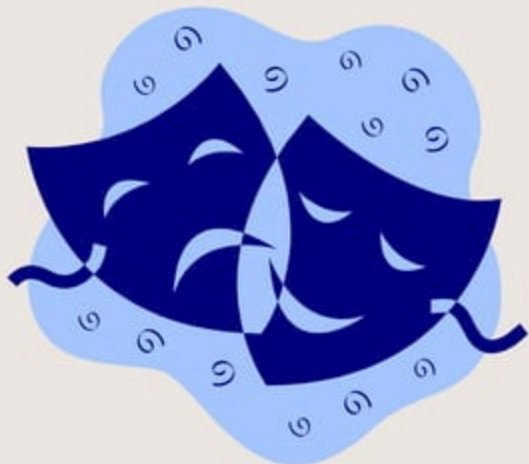


Short Story Vocabulary

Point of view:

The position of the narrator of the story and what the writer sees from that vantage point.

- First person- one involved directly in the action of the story, telling the story
- Third person- one looking on to the action, but not directly involved
- Omniscient-all knowing narrator



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Short Story

Great writers are able to use the elements of the short story with such precision that the reader is caught up in the action of the story. This is a mark of a good story and our goal as a writer.