

Literary Genres & Narrative

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Topics to be Covered

- Literary Devices contd.
 - Elements of Literature
 - Genres
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- Resources to be consulted for further reading:
 - <https://literarydevices.net/>

IRONY

- A rhetorical device or a literary technique, expressing exactly opposite to what is communicated
- People often use irony either to bring fun in the conversation or to explain something which is totally contrary.
- Cheer up, the worst is yet to come
- I saw a fish drowning.
- Two marriage therapists got divorced from each other.
- Most tobacco company executives don't smoke.
- Titanic, which was touted as "100% unsinkable", sank on its maiden voyage.

IRONY

“The Gift of the Magi”, by O. Henry is a story of two people, much in love, who are very poor and want to give a Christmas gift to one another. She is very proud of her long, beautiful hair and he is equally proud of his pocket watch. The irony comes in to play when she cuts and sells her hair to buy him a chain for his watch, and he sells the watch to buy her combs for her hair.

Onomatopoeia

- The term ‘onomatopoeia’ refers to words whose very sound is very close to the sound they are meant to depict. In other words, it refers to sound words whose pronunciation to the actual sound they represent.
- The buzzing bee flew away.
- The sack fell into the river with a splash.
- The books fell on the table with a loud thump.
- He looked at the roaring sky.
- The rustling leaves kept me awake.

Anaphora

- Anaphora is a rhetorical device(a type of parallelism) that features repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive sentences, phrases, or clauses. Anaphora works as a literary device to allow writers to convey, emphasize, and reinforce meaning.
- “Go big or go home.”
- “Be bold. Be brief. Be gone.”
- “Get busy living or get busy dying.”
- “Give me liberty or give me death.”

SOLILOQUY

A **monologue** in which a **character** expresses his or her **thoughts** to the **audience** and **does not intend** the **other characters to hear them**.

Examples:

“To be or not to be, that is the question” *from Hamlet written by Shakespeare*

Connotation

- An association with a particular word
- Not related to a word's actual meaning, but rather to the ideas or qualities implied by that word.
- A good example is the word "gold." The denotation of gold is a malleable, ductile, yellow element. The connotations, however, are the ideas associated with gold, such as greed, luxury, or avarice.

Didactic

- Intended or inclined to teach, preach, or instruct, often excessively.
- Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which seeks to "justify God's ways to men."

Euphemism

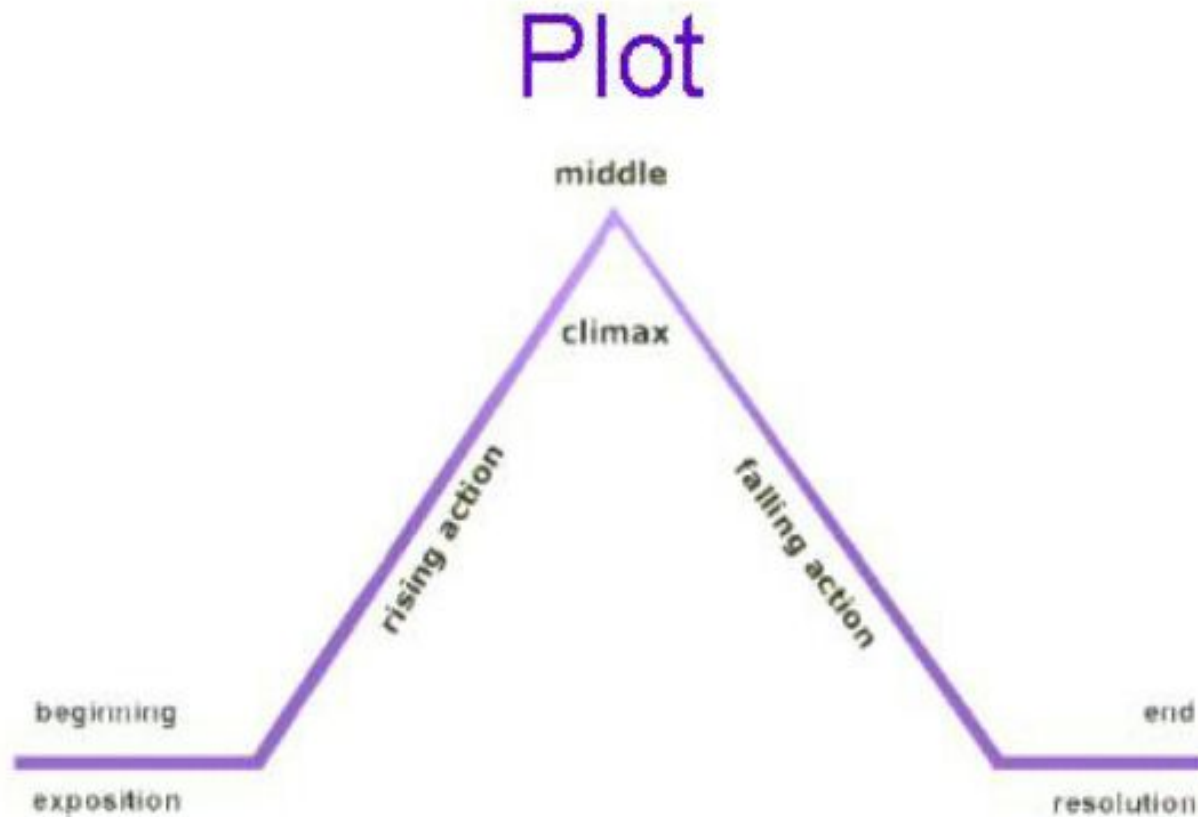
- Polite, indirect expressions which replace words and phrases considered harsh and impolite or which suggest something.
- Passed away instead of died
- Departed instead of died
- Differently-abled instead of handicapped or disabled
- Relocation center instead of prison camp
- Letting someone go instead of firing someone
- Put to sleep instead of euthanize
- Pregnancy termination instead of abortion
- On the streets instead of homeless
- Use the rest room instead of go to the bathroom



Elements of Literature

- Plot
- Conflict
- Setting
- Character
- Theme
- Point of View

Plot



Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.



Plot- Exposition


- *Exposition* is the beginning of the story.
- The exposition introduces the setting and characters

Plot- Rising Action

- *Rising Action* includes events leading up to the climax.
- There are conflicts that arise during these events.

Plot- Conflict

- Conflicts are problems or complications.
- Internal and External Conflict
 - ▢ Man vs. man -- two people arguing or fighting
 - ▢ Man vs. self --a person who has problems within, such as depression, unresolved anger or love, feelings of rejection, etc.
 - ▢ Man vs. nature --a person against a natural disaster or Mother Nature, i.e. a storm, blizzard, hurricane, etc.
 - ▢ Man vs. supernatural -- a person against things that are not easily explained or "normal", such as ghosts, evil forces, gods, etc.
 - ▢ Man vs. Society - It explores the ways individual people's deeds, beliefs and desires contradict the social mores surrounding them.
 - ▢ Man vs. Technology - when a protagonist is facing machines or technology (such as mechanical failure or robots) and must prevail against it.

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- Hamlet's internal conflict is the main conflict in William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet". This internal conflict decides his tragic downfall. He reveals his state of mind in Act 3, Scene 1 of the play.

Plot- Climax

- Climax is the turning point of the story.
- The Climax is the point of greatest emotional intensity, interest, or suspense in the plot of a narrative.
- It is a high point and is usually somewhere in the middle of the story.

Plot- Falling Action

- Falling Action includes events after the climax.
- Falling Action is the action that typically follows the climax and reveals its results.
- These events lead to the resolution and start tying up loose ends.

Plot- Resolution

- Resolution is the end of the story where all of the loose ends are tied up for the reader.
- The Resolution is the part of the plot that concludes the falling action by revealing or suggesting the outcome of the conflict.

Plot Components

Climax: the turning point, the most intense moment—either mentally or in action

Rising Action: the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax

Falling Action: all of the action which follows the climax

Exposition: the start of the story, the situation before the action starts

Resolution: the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads

Setting

- The time, place, physical details, and circumstances in which a situation occurs. Settings include the background, atmosphere or environment in which characters live and move, and usually include physical characteristics of the surroundings. Settings enable the reader to better envision how a story unfolds by relating necessary physical details of a piece of literature

Setting cont'd

Can be used to set the atmosphere for the story:



“During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country.”

“The Fall of the House of Usher”
by Edgar Allan Poe

Antagonist

- A character in a story or poem who deceives, frustrates, or works against the main character, or protagonist, in some way. The antagonist doesn't necessarily have to be a person. It could be death, the devil, an illness, or any challenge that prevents the main character from living "happily ever after."

Foreshadowing

- It is a literary device in which a writer gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story. Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story, or a chapter, and it helps the reader develop expectations about the upcoming events. A writer may implement foreshadowing in many different ways.
- Ex: **Dialogue**, such as “I have a bad feeling about this”
- Symbols, such as blood, certain colors, types of birds, weapons.
- Weather motifs, such as storm clouds, wind, rain, clearing skies.

Flashback

- A narrative technique that allows a writer to present past events during current events, in order to provide background for the current narration. By giving material that occurred prior to the present event, the writer provides the reader with insight into a character's motivation and or background to a conflict.

Theme

- A common thread or repeated idea that is incorporated throughout a literary work. A theme is a thought or idea the author presents to the reader that may be deep, difficult to understand, or even moralistic. Generally, a theme has to be extracted as the reader explores the passages of a work. The author utilizes the characters, plot, and other literary devices to assist the reader in this endeavor

Point of View

- Point of view is the angle of considering things, which shows us the opinion or feelings of the individuals involved in a situation. In literature, point of view is the mode of narration that an author employs to let the readers “hear” and “see” what takes place in a story, poem, or essay.
- Examples of point of view belong to one of these three major kinds:
- First person point of view involves the use of either of the two pronouns “I” or “we.”
- “I felt like I was getting drowned with shame and disgrace.”
- Second person point of view employs the pronoun “you.”
- “Sometimes you cannot clearly discern between anger and frustration.”
- Third person point of view uses pronouns like “he,” “she,” “it,” “they,” or a name.
- “Stewart is a principled man. He acts by the book and never lets you deceive him easily.”

The Five Main Genres of Literature

- FICTION
- NON-FICTION
- DRAMA
- POETRY
- FOLKTALE

Let us discuss

1. Interest and suspense are built during which part of the story?
a) Exposition b) rising action c) climax d) falling action
2. What is the classic fairy tale resolution?
a) once upon a time b) the end...or is it? c) and they all lived happily ever after
d) this is a story about a family
3. What can flashback do?
a) Interrupt a chronological narrative b) Complicate a plot
c) Further develop characters d) All of the above
4. Sometimes the antagonist of a story isn't human such as an animal, government, or culture. True/False
5. Referring to someone's house as a "shack" would have a positive/negative connotation.

References

- <https://literarydevices.net/>
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