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What is a Short Story?

1. Definition

The short story is a piece of prose fiction with these five (5) characteristics:

- It can be read in a single sitting
- It develops a single incident
- It takes place in one location
- It has a small group of characters
- It happens in a short period of time

Short stories are stories of plot; novels are stories of character.

2. Parts

The short story has 4 main parts:

- A. Plot
- B. Characters
- C. Setting
- D. Theme

A. Plot

The plot is the action in the story. The plot has four (4) main parts:

- a. Introduction
- b. Rising action
- c. Climax
- d. Conclusion

a. Introduction – has four (4) purposes:

- a. To introduce the main characters
- b. To give an idea of the setting
- c. To give clues about the action
- d. To arouse the reader's interest

b. Rising Action – constitutes the major portion of the plot. It is the series of steps that develop the clues and actions hinted at in the introduction.

Conflict – the clash of opposing forces, persons, ideas or emotions – is used to heighten interest.

Conflict has 2 main types:

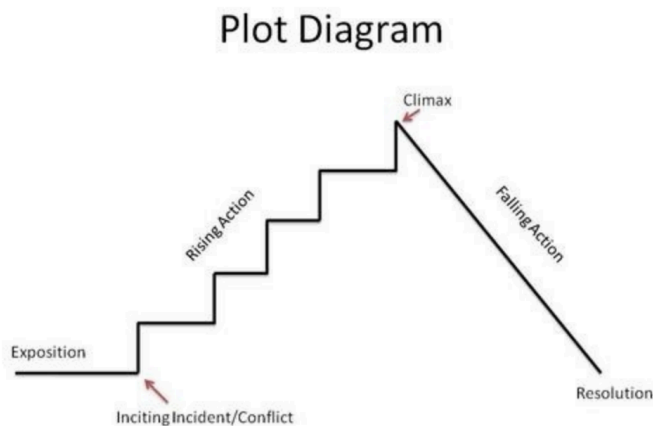
- 1) Internal conflict which is:
 - a. Man versus himself
- 2) External conflict which is:

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- i. Man versus man
 - ii. Man versus nature (animals or environment)
 - iii. Man versus the unknown
 - iv. Man versus technology (can be AI or social media)
- c. Climax
The climax is the turning point of the action. It is the high point of interest in the story and it is where the main conflict is resolved.
- d. Conclusion
The conclusion follows soon after the climax. It explains any details which could not be explained before the climax or the suspense would be ruined.



B. Characters

Characters are revealed in 3 ways:

- a. By what the author tells us
- b. By what the character himself says, does or thinks
- c. By what other characters say about him

A character trait is a quality which a character possesses for which there is proof in the story.

The protagonist is the main character in the story with whom we identify or sympathize.

The antagonist is the character (force, idea or emotion) who is directly opposed to the protagonist.

C. Setting

The complete setting has 2 parts:

- 1) The physical setting which is:
 - A. The time when the story takes place
 - B. The place where the story takes place

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- 2) The emotional setting which is
A. The mood

3) Theme

The theme is the central idea behind the story. It is the author's feeling about some significant aspect of life and is the reason for his writing the story.

4) Literary Techniques

A. Techniques

Some techniques used to hold the reader's attention include:

- Suspense
 - Foreshadowing
 - Irony
 - Humour
 - Dialogue
 - Coincidence
 - Symbolism
-
- i. Suspense – involved uncertainty as to the outcome of the story.
 - ii. Foreshadowing – involves hints or warnings about something that will happen further on in the story.
 - iii. Irony – occurs when something happens which is the complete opposite of what is expected.
 - iv. Humour – is the use of funny or comical language or events.
 - v. Dialogue – is a conversation between two or more characters.
 - vi. Coincidence – occurs when events which happen accidentally seem to have been planned.
 - vii. Symbolism – the use of something to represent or stand for something else.

B. Point of View

Point of view is the eyes through which the story is told.

- i. First person – I
- ii. Third person – he/she/it
- iii. Second person

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What is a Short Story?

Parts of the Short Story

The short story has four main parts:

1)

2)

3)

4)

Plot: The plot is the _____ in the story. The plot has four main parts:

1)

2)

3)

4)

Introduction: The introduction has four purposes:

1)

2)

3)

4)

Rising Action: The rising action constitutes the major portion of the _____. It is a series of steps that develop the clues and _____ hinted at in the introduction.

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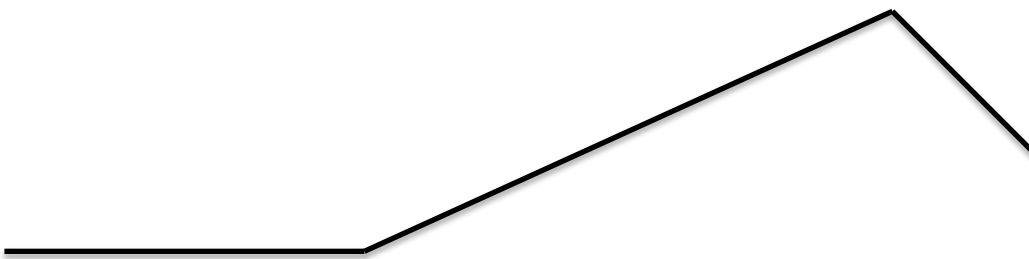
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Climax: The climax is the _____ of the action. It is the high point of interest in the story and it is where the main conflict is _____.

Conclusion: The conclusion follows soon after the _____. It explains any details which could not be explained before the climax or the _____ would be ruined.

A Typical Plot Graph



II. Characters: Characters are revealed in three ways:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

A character trait is a quality which a character possesses for which there is _____ in the story.

The protagonist is the _____ character in the story with whom we _____ or _____

The antagonist is the character (force, idea or emotion) who is directly _____ to the _____.

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Conflict is the clash of _____, _____,
_____ or _____. It is used to heighten interest.

There are two main types of conflict:

1) _____ conflict which is:

a)

2) _____ conflict which is:

a)

b)

c)

d)

III. Setting: The complete setting has two parts:

A) The _____ setting which is:

a)

b)

B) The _____ setting which is:

a)

IV. Theme: The theme is the _____ behind the story. It is the author's feelings about some significant aspect of life and is the reason for his writing the story.

Literary Techniques: Some techniques used to hold the reader's attention include:

- a. Suspense
- b. Foreshadowing

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- c. Irony
- d. Humour
- e. Dialogue
- f. Coincidence
- g. Symbolism

Suspense: Suspense involves _____ as to the outcome of the story.

Foreshadowing: Foreshadowing involves _____ or _____ about something that will happen further on in the story.

Irony: Irony occurs when something happens which is the _____ of what is expected.

Humour: Humour is the use of _____ or _____ language or events.

Dialogue: Dialogue is a _____ between _____ or _____ characters.

Coincidence: Coincidence occurs when events which happen _____ seem to have been _____.

Symbolism: Symbolism is the use of something to _____ or _____ for something else.

Point of View: Point of view is the _____ through which the story is told. This is usually:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

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