Elements to a Fiction Story

Children’s Story Book

**What is Character?**

A character is a person depicted in a narrative or drama. Characters may be flat, minor characters; or round, and major. The main character in a story is generally known as the protagonist; the character who opposes him or her is the antagonist. Character is revealed by how a character responds to conflict, by his or her dialogue, and through descriptions.

**What is a Flat character?**

A flat character is a minor character in a work of fiction who does not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. Also referred to as "two-dimensional characters" or "static characters," flat characters play a supporting role to the main character, who as a rule should be round.

**What is a Round character?**

A round character is a major character in a work of fiction who encounters conflict and is changed by it. Round characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or static, characters. If you think of the characters you most love in fiction, they probably seem as real to you as people you know in real life. This is a good sign that they are round characters.

**What is a Protagonist character?**

The protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with. The antagonist opposes the protagonist. In the most archetypical narratives, this boils down to bad guy vs. good guy: Luke Skywalker versus Darth Vadar in the first Star Wars movie, for instance.

**What is an Antagonist character?**

The antagonist in a work of fiction is the character who opposes the hero, or protagonist. The antagonist, when there is one, provides the story's conflict.

**What is Dialogue?**

Dialogue is a conversational passage in a narrative or play used to advance the plot or develop the characters.

**What is Setting?**

Many writers swear that setting is the most important element of any fictional work. It's especially important to use specific details, especially those that don't immediately spring to mind when people think of a place. You don't need a lot, just the right ones. Through this exercise, devote some time reflecting on your story's setting and conjuring the details to make your setting vivid for your readers.

**What is Plot?**

Plot concerns the organization of the main events of a work of fiction. Plot differs from story in that plot is concerned with how events are related, how they are structured, and how they enact change in the major characters. Most plots will trace some process of change in which characters are caught up in a conflict that is eventually resolved. Plots may be fully integrated or "tightly knit," or episodic in nature.

**What is Story?**

Story is the full sequence of events in a work of fiction as we imagine them to have taken place, in the order in which they would have occurred in life (as opposed to plot).

**What is Resolution?**

The denouement refers to the resolution of the complications of a plot in a work of fiction, generally done in a final chapter or section (often in the epilogue). The denouement generally follows the climax, except in mystery novels, in which the denouement and the climax may occur at the same time.

**What is Epilogue?**

The epilogue is the final section of a novel or story, which provides a comment or conclusion to what has happened. It follows the book's climax, and ties up any loose knots. The denouement, then, might occur in the epilogue.

**What is Climax?**

A climax is a moment of great intensity in the plot of a literary work, generally bringing events to a head and leading to the conclusion.