



First Stage
Morning & Evening Classes
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Chapter One

The 5 Elements of a Fiction

A story has five basic important elements. These five components are: the setting, the theme, the characters, the plot and the conflict. These essential elements keep the story running smoothly and allow the action to develop in a logical way that the reader can follow.

Setting

The setting is the place of the action, the time and environment. An author describes the environment or surroundings of the story in such detail that the reader feels that he or she can picture the scene. Unusual settings (such as a fantasy world) can be interesting, but everyday settings can help a reader to better visualize the story and feel connected to the plot.

Plot

The plot is what happens in the story, the actual series of actions around which the entire story is based. A plot has a very clear beginning, middle, and end—with all the necessary descriptions and suspense, so that the reader can make sense of the action and follow along from start to finish.

Theme

It is the central idea of the story, or a message within a narrative. A story may have several themes. Themes often explore ideas, and raise questions, and are usually implied rather than stated explicitly. Themes can be divided into two categories: a work's thematic concept is what readers "think the work is about" and its thematic statement being "what the work says about the subject".

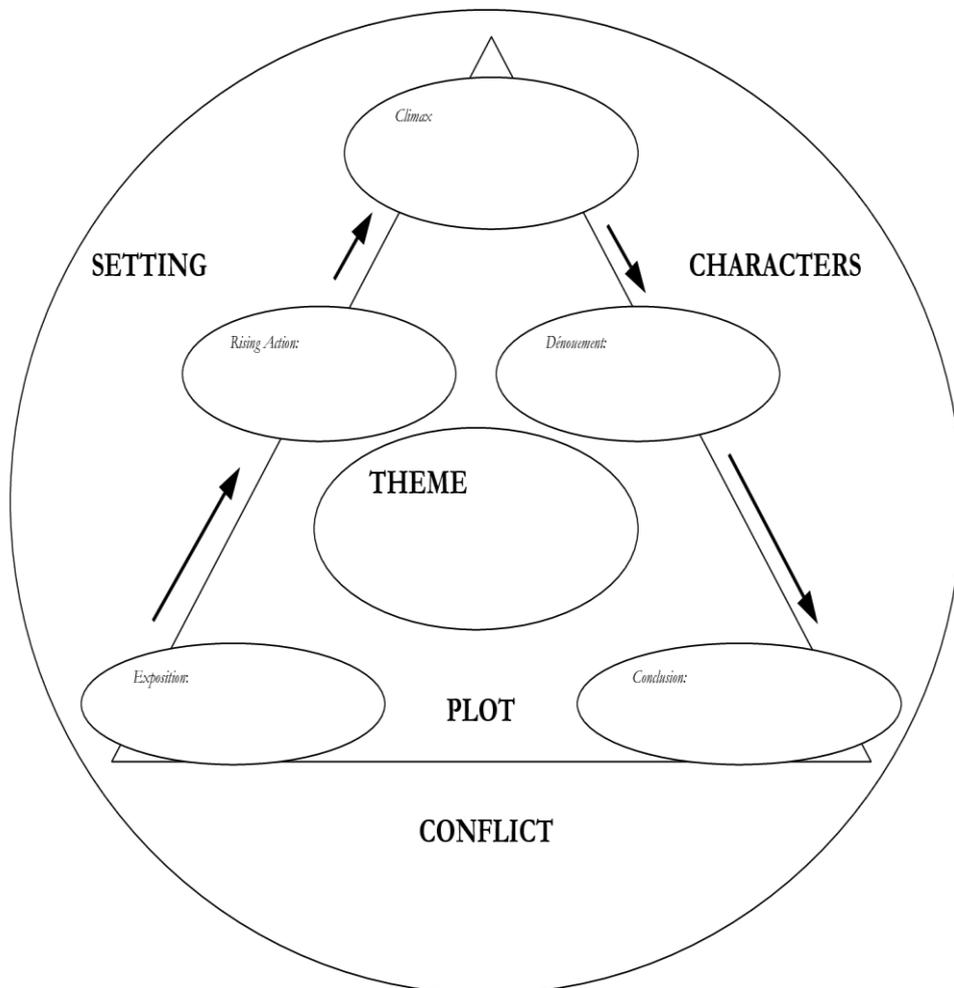
Characters

The characters are the people that the story is about. The author introduces the characters in the story with enough information that the reader can visualize each person. This is achieved by providing detailed descriptions of a character's physical attributes and personality behaviors. Every story should have a main character. There are two types of characters: main and secondary. The main character determines the way the plot will develop and is usually who will solve the problem the story centers upon. However, the other secondary characters are also very important because they supply additional details, explanations, or actions. Also some characters are static, i.e., they remain the same till the end (e.g. they remain good or evil) and other characters are dynamic (they change through the course of events).

Conflict

Every story has a conflict to solve. The plot is centered on this conflict and the ways in which the characters attempt to resolve the problem. When the story's action becomes most exciting and problems reach to its peak, it is called the climax. Climax is the turning point in a story, at which the end result becomes inevitable, usually where something suddenly goes terribly wrong; the "dramatic high point" of a story.

The Five Elements of Fiction: Story Chart



A Diagram for the five Elements of Fiction