

# ELEMENTS OF STORY

**setting:** (noun) the time and place in which events in a short story, novel, play, or narrative poem take place.

**characterization:** (noun) the development of a character through actions and dialogue

**conflict:** (noun) the struggle between opposing forces

*internal conflict:* (noun) the struggle within (man vs. himself)

*external conflict:* (noun) the struggle outside of character (man vs. man)

**theme:** (noun) the central message in a literary work; the author's intended message

**symbol:** (noun) any object, person, place, or action that has a larger meaning that connects to a story

**foreshadowing:** (noun) hints that something is going to happen without revealing the story or spoiling the suspense

**flashback:** (noun) an event or scene that took place before the present time is inserted into the chronological structure of the story

**plot:** (noun) sequence of events or actions in a short story, novel, play or narrative poem

*exposition:* (noun)  
the introduction of  
the plot (characters,  
setting, conflict)

*rising action:* (noun)  
the suspense building  
up to the climax

*climax:* (noun) the  
turning point in the  
plot marking the  
highest emotional  
intensity

*falling action:* (noun)  
events following the  
climax in a narrative

*resolution:* (noun)  
the final outcome

**allusion:** (noun): a reference to a well-known person, place, event, character, or other literary work

