

Literary Terms

Protagonist: the main character

Antagonist: the character or force in contrast with the protagonist

Dynamic characters: characters that change and develop throughout the course of the story

Static characters: these characters remain unchanged throughout the story

Exposition: the part of the work that introduces the characters, the setting and the basic situation

Rising action: the elements in the story that lead up to the climax

Climax: the story's highest point; the most suspenseful and interesting point

Falling action: the events that follow the climax; at this point, conflicts are beginning to be resolved; there may still be complications

Resolution: this is the point where all of the story's conflicts are resolved

External conflict: the protagonist faces an outside force; man vs. man; man vs. society; man vs. nature

Internal conflict: a character is in opposition with himself or herself; man vs. self

Third person narrative: the point of view in which the story is told from a voice outside the story

First person point of view: the point of view in which a character in the story tells the story, utilizing "I," "me" and "my" pronouns

Foreshadowing: hints or clues that suggest of events that have yet to occur

Mood: the feeling the reader gets while reading a work. This feeling is created by the writer's choice of words, events that occur in the work, or by the setting.

Tone: this is the writer's attitude toward the subject.

Symbol: anything that stands for or represents something else

Theme: the central idea or message of a literary work; the insight the author wants to pass along to the reader