

# Elements of a Story Vocabulary

1. Plot-is the action or sequence of events in a story. It is usually a series of related incidents that build upon one another as the story develops.
2. Plot line-is the graphic display of the action or events in a story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
3. Exposition-is writing that is intended to explain something that might otherwise be difficult to understand. In a play or novel, it would be the portion that gives the background or situation surrounding the story.
4. Rising Action-is the series of struggles that builds a story or play toward a climax.
5. Climax-is usually the turning point, or the most intense point on a story.
6. Falling Action-is the part of the story or play that works out the decision arrived at during the climax.
7. Resolution-is the portion of the play or story in which problem is solved. It comes after the climax and falling action and is intended to bring a story to a satisfactory end.
8. Characterization-is the method an author uses to reveal characters and their personalities.
9. Conflict- is the problem or struggle in a story that triggers the action. Conflict is either external or internal.
10. External conflict- a struggle between a character and an outside force, such as another character, nature, society, or fate.
11. Internal conflict- takes place within the mind of a character who struggles with opposing feelings or with indecision about how to act.
12. Types of conflict (6) [this flashcard only—write the six types on the back and add a small picture for each type—no definition/synonym/antonym needed for this card]
  - a. Person vs. Person (external)
  - b. Person vs. Society (external)
  - c. Person vs. Self (internal)
  - d. Person vs. Nature (external)
  - e. Person vs. Fate/God (external, but *could* be internal in some situations)
  - f. Person vs. Technology (external)
13. Protagonist- the main character
14. Antagonist- the person in conflict with the main character
15. Point of view- the relationship between the writer, characters, and the reader (the perspective of who is telling the story).
16. First-person point of view- the narrator, a character in the story, uses “I” and “me” to tell the story.
17. Third-person point of view- The narrator describes the characters and actions from outside the story.
18. Third-person *omniscient* point of view- the narrator knows everything that goes on (what all characters do, think and feel).
19. Third-person *limited*- the narrator describes events as one character sees them (does not know what other characters think and feel).
20. Theme-is the statement about life that a writer is trying to get across in a piece of writing. In most cases, the theme will be implied rather than directly stated.