

BOD (): Inside a narrative...

The following items are utilized in the making and development of stories. Understanding their usage adds insight to the text.

Who's Who?

Protagonist is the main character. The story revolves around this central character. He/she is the hero/heroine of the story.

Antagonist is the villain. This character goes against the hero/heroine, whether deliberately or not.

Static vs. Dynamic This is the difference between characters. If a character changes throughout a narrative, he is considered dynamic. If he remains the same, he is a static character.

Antihero is a modern protagonist without traditional heroic qualities; Homer Simpson.

Archetype is the character embodying basic, universal human qualities. For example, the damsel in distress, the bumbling sidekick, the brooding, yet redeemed thug.

Emotions

Tone is the attitude a writer takes towards a subject or character: serious, humorous, sarcastic, ironic, satirical, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, objective. This is on the page.

Mood is the reader's response to the work. Readers may become fearful, happy, discontented, angry, defensive, melancholy, or surprised. This is inside of the reader.

Point Of View

Every story is told by a narrator, who is created by the author and usually different from the author's voice. The narrator controls the story by talking from a particular point of view. Points of view have traditionally been classed as first person, second person, and third-person." These points of view or perspectives relay the tone of the writer and invoke emotion from the readers.

First Person Point of View

(I, We)...narrator is involved in the story.

I went to the store. We walked slowly down the street.

Second Person Point of View

(You)... the protagonist or another main character is referred to as "you"- the second-person personal pronoun.

You went to the store. You see a strange man; what do you do?

Third Person Point of View

(He, She, They)...third person omniscient. The narrator speaks from outside of the story about others; they do not know about the speaker.

He is in the store, not knowing if he would return. third-person objective – the speaker is an onlooker reporting the story. *She went to the story.*

Plot – Developing the parts of the Whole

Exposition is the beginning of the story. This portion introduces the setting, characters, and basically, sets the reader up for the story.

Rising Action is the where the main conflict develops, and it is the longest part of a story.

Climax is the where turning point of a story comes about; the outcome becomes known. This is the *Oh My God! Factor*. The part of the story you never expected or where you become excited and drawn into the work.

Falling Action is the where the main conflict winds down; Loose ends wrapped up.

Resolution is the where the story ends; questions are answered. Also known as Denouement.

Literary devices and figurative language plague the pages of narratives to add spice and interest for the reader.

Theme: The moving force, the **why** behind the **what** in the work.

Theme is the general idea or insight about life that a writer wishes to express. All of the elements of [literary terms](#) contribute to theme. A simple theme can often be stated in a single sentence.

Types of Popular Themes

Good vs. Evil

Coming of Age (Bildungsroman)

Racism and Discrimination

Greed

Conformity vs. Individuality

Rebellion and Separation

Love

Sexuality

Familial Relations

War and Peace

Honor and Respect

Patriotism

Levels of Interpretation

Literal (face value)— explaining what is actually there and what it means.

Social and/or Political- relating events and characters of story to today's society

Psychological and/or Sexual – delving into the mind finding the *whys* of the characters.

Religious and/or **Mythological** – what are the religious or mythological allusions and significance of the work?

Conflict

This is a struggle between opposing forces that moves a narrative forward. Conflicts cause the story to progress. Fights, whether emotional or physical, and confrontations move the story along and add interest. There are two major categories: Internal and External.

External

Man vs. Man a character struggles against other individual characters.

Man vs. Machine a character opposes technology and science.

Man vs. Nature a character fights things of natural origins, Mother Nature.

Man vs. Society a character fights the power; he goes against the government and institutions.

Man vs. the Divine a character struggles against God and the gods.

Internal

Man vs. Self a character opposes him or herself. There are constant mental and emotional struggles. Epiphanies and growth usually develop out of his/her struggles.

Literary Time Periods

British & World

1. Anglo-Saxon/Medieval (449-1485)
2. English Renaissance (1485-1660)
3. Restoration and Enlightenment (1660-1798)
4. Romanticism (1798-1832)
5. Victorianism (1832-1901)
6. Modernism (1901-1950)
7. Contemporary (1950-present)

American

8. Colonialism (1620-1800)
9. Individualism Romanticism/Transcendentalism (1800-1855)
10. Conflict & Expansion
Slavery and the Civil War (1850-1900)
11. New Voices Women & the American Dream (1855-1925)
12. The Modern Age
Harlem Renaissance & Modernism (1910-1940)
13. Wars/Conflict at Home
Modern & Contemporary Pieces (1940-Present)