Elements of a Short Story

Setting

Setting is _____ of a story. It is the

_____during which the story takes place.

Details that describe setting (pick three of the examples):

_____   _____   _____

Functions of a Setting:

- To create a mood or atmosphere

-

- To make action seem more real

-

- To symbolize an idea

Mood

The feeling that the author tries to convey throughout the story. The _____

_____ created by the piece, within the setting. Does the author want the reader to be *frightened or sad*, or does the story make the reader *laugh and think happy thoughts*?
To figure out mood, examine how you feel while reading the story. Often, mood is conveyed

by the story's _____.

Characters

The _____, _____, and _____

participating in a story.

Protagonist: _____

_____

_____

Antagonist: _____

_____

_____

Plot

Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story.

Plot is also the _____ that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.

Exposition
Rising Action
Climax
Falling Action
Resolution

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Diagram of a Plot
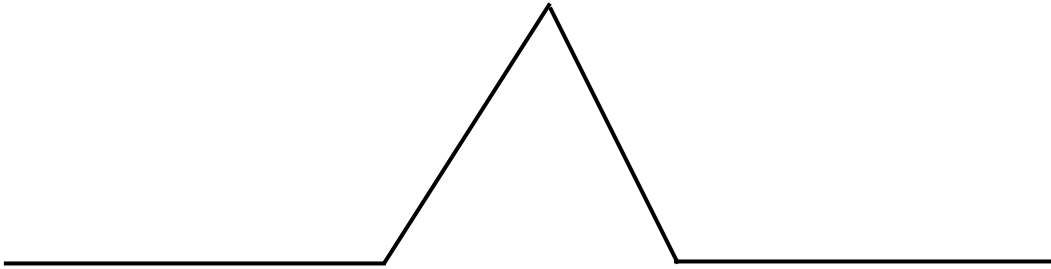
Special Techniques used in a Story:

Suspense
Foreshadowing
Flashback
Symbolism
Personification
Surprise Ending

Conflict

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot. It is a problem that must be solved; an issue between the protagonist and antagonist.

Conflicts can be external or internal.

External conflict: _____

_____

Internal conflict: _____

_____

Types of External Conflict: Character vs. Character

                                                  Character vs. Nature

                                                  Character vs. Society

                                                  Character vs. Fate

Types of Internal Conflict: Character vs. Self

Point of View

- _____a character from the story is telling the story; uses the pronouns "I" and "me"

- _____an outside narrator is telling the story; uses the pronouns "he", "she", "they"

Types of Third-Person Point of View:

Third-Person Limited – the narrator knows the thoughts and feelings on only _____ character in a story.

Third-Person Omniscient – the narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of _____ the characters in a story.

Theme

The theme is the _____, _____,

_____, _____ about life or people the author wants to get across through a literary work.

To discover the theme of a story, think BIG. What big message is the author trying to say about the world in which we live?

What is this story telling me about how life works, or how people behave?