

Annotating a Work of Fiction

Key Elements of a Work of Fiction:

1 Characters



The **PROTAGONIST** is the main character and the focus of the story...

...and may be a **HERO** or **ANTI-HERO**, someone who is flawed but still fulfills the role of the hero.

There may also be an **ANTAGONIST**, someone who is opposed to the main character.

2 Setting



The setting is a **place** and **time** where the story unfolds. The setting may be **current**, **historical**, or **invented**.

3 Plot

5 Stages of a Common Plot Formula

Characters, Setting, Events



Exposition

Conflict



Rising Action



Climax

Conflict



Falling Action

Story



Resolution

4 Point of View

As stories, works of fiction have a **narrator** who tells the story from a particular point of view:

First-Person (I or We)



Second-Person (You)



Third-Person (He, She, or They)



5 Tone

The narrator's tone helps establish the **Feeling & Meaning** of the story.

Is it Serious & Tragic



Is it Humorous & Satirical



How is it Emotional & Meaningful



6 Themes

A **theme** is a major idea expressed by a story. Every story has one or more themes that it develops, such as:

Human endeavor is ultimately futile



OR

Working-class unity leading to successful resistance to oppression

