

Elements of Narrative: Plot Analysis

Plot (definition)

Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story. Every plot is made up of a series of incidents that are related to one another.

<u>5 Elements of Plot</u>:

1. Exposition

This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).

2. Rising Action

This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs.

3. Climax

This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way.

4. Falling Action

All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict(s) and climax are taken care of.

5. Resolution

The story comes to a reasonable ending

Keywords for Plot Analysis

Foreshadowing : The use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later	POINT OF VIEW
in the story.	First Person
Inciting Force : The event or character that triggers the conflict.	The narrator is a character in the story who can reveal only personal
<u>Conflict</u> : The essence of fiction. It creates plot. The conflicts we encounter	thoughts and feelings and what he or she sees and is told by other characters.
can usually be identified as one of four kinds. (Man versusMan, Nature,	He can't tell us thoughts of other characters.
Society, or Self)	Third-Person Objective
Suspense: That quality of a literary work that makes the reader or audience	The narrator is an outsider who can report only what he or she sees and
uncertain or tense about the outcome of events. Suspense makes the reader	hears. This narrator can tell us what is happening, but he can't tell us the
ask "What will happen next?". Suspense is greatest when it focuses attention	thoughts of the characters.
on a sympathetic character. Thus, the most familiar kind of suspense	Third-Person Limited
involves a character hanging form the lee of a tall building, or tied to a	The narrator is an outsider who sees into the mind of one of the characters.
railroad tracks as a train approaches.	Omniscient
Symbolism: Any object, person, place, or action that has a meaning in itself	The narrator is an all-knowing outsider who can enter the minds of more
and that also stands for something larger than it does, such as a quality, an	than one of the characters.
attitude, a belief, or a value. For instance, a rose is often a symbol love and	
beauty while a skull is often a symbol of death.	