

Short Story Terms

2nd YEAR CLASSES

1ST SEMESTER

What is a Short Story?

- A short story is : a brief work of fiction where, usually, the main character faces a conflict that is worked out in the plot of the story
- Plot: A sequence of related events, linked by a cause and arranged according to significance.
- Exposition :Section that introduces characters, the setting, and conflicts.
- Rising Action: Consists of a series of complications.
- These occur when the main characters take action to resolve their problems and are met with further problems:
- Fear , Hostility, Threatening situation
- Climax : The turning point in the story: the high point of interest and suspense
- Falling Action : All events following the climax or turning point in the story. These events are a result of the action taken at the climax.
- Resolution : The end of the central conflict: it shows how the situation turns out and ties up loose ends
- Conflict : A struggle between two opposing forces
- Types :
- Internal – takes place in a character’s own mind
- Man vs. Him(Her)self
- External – a character struggles against an outside force
- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Nature
- Man vs. technology, progress
- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Supernatural
- Protagonist : Main character of the story that changes
- Antagonist : A major character who opposes the protagonist
- the antagonist does not change
- Types of antagonists:
- People , nature, society
- Setting : The time and place of the story’s action
- Theme : The central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work.
- The “main idea” of the story
- Flashback : The present scene in the story is interrupted to flash backward and tell what happened in an earlier time.
- Foreshadowing : Clues the writer puts in the story to give the reader a hint of what is to come.
- Symbol : An object, person, or event that functions as itself, but also stands for something more than itself.
- Example: Scales function is to weigh things,
- but they are also a symbol
- of our justice system.
- Figurative Language : Involves some imaginative comparison between two unlike things.
- Simile – comparing two unlike things using like or as.
- “I wandered lonely as a cloud”
- Metaphor – comparing two unlike things (not using like or as)
- Life is a roller coaster, it has lots of ups and downs.
- Personification – Giving human qualities to non-human things.

- “The wind howled”
- Irony : A contrast between expectation and reality
- Verbal Irony – saying one thing but meaning something completely different.
- Calling a clumsy basketball player “Michael Jordan”
- Situational Irony – A contradiction between what we expect to happen and what really does happen
- Dramatic Irony – occurs when the reader knows something important that the characters in the story do not know.
- Allusion : Reference to a statement, person, a place, or events from: Literature, History, Religion, Mythology, Politics, Sports
- Suspense : Uncertainty or anxiety the reader feels about what is going to happen next in a story.
- Imagery : Language that appeals to the senses.
- Touch , Taste, Sight, Sound, Smell
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