

Short Story Literary Terms for Review

LITERARY PRODUCTS:

- **Character:** The people represented in a story. There are several types:
 - Stereotyped/Flat – one trait exhibited, supports the main character.
 - Dynamic/Round – we see multiple character traits exhibited
 - Protagonist – hero; Antagonist – villain
- **Conflict:** The struggle between opposing forces. There are two main types:
 - External – person vs. external force (either person vs. person or person vs. nature) and Internal – person vs. self.
- **Mood:** The emotion created in the reader through a piece of writing
- **Theme:** The comment about people or life the author wishes to make.
- **Tone** – The author's attitude toward the subject. Tone is revealed through diction (the author's specific word choice)

LITERARY ELEMENTS:

- **Foreshadowing** – giving hints as to what will happen later in a story **Imagery** – The use of language that appeals to the senses; 4 types; visual, auditory, gustatory, & tactile
- **Irony** – There are three types:
 - Situational; The opposite of what you expect occurs;
 - Verbal; When one thing is said, but the opposite is meant (sarcasm).
 - Dramatic; When the audience is aware of facts that the characters are not.
- **Paradox** - A seemingly contradictory set of characteristics, but present together. (Ex. An individual may be caring and compassionate, yet cruel.)
- **Pathos** - To evoke pity or sympathy.
- **Plot** – the structure of a storyline. (Introduction, Complication, Climax, Denouement)

- **Point of view:** The person from whose vantage point a story is told. There are three categories of P.O.V.:

1st person – the story is told from the vantage point of a character within the story; “I” is used.

2nd person - the author addresses the reader directly (“you”). This P.O.V. is common in cookbooks or other types of instruction manuals.

3rd person – the story is told from the vantage point of an outsider as narrator. 3rd person point of view may be either:

Objective – only actions and dialogue reveal information,

Limited - thoughts and feelings of a single character are revealed,

Omniscient (all knowing) -information of all characters’ thoughts are given.

- **Satire** – Poking fun of a serious issue.
- **Setting** – the time, place & circumstance of a piece of writing

Setting creates **Atmosphere** – the overall description given to a piece of writing (ex. Dark, dreary, bright,).

Atmosphere leads the reader to **Mood** – The emotion created in the reader by a piece of writing. (ex. Depressed, joyful, frustrated, relief...)

- **Suspense** – a feeling of anticipation or tension.
- **Symbolism** – the use of something tangible to represent something abstract.