



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

3 Plot

5 STAGES OF A COMMON PLOT FORMULA

Introduce

CHARACTERS
SETTING
EVENTS

CONFLICT



Rising Action



Climax

CONFLICT



Falling Action



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