NOTES for Short Story Elements

Character - the people, animals, or mythical creatures that take place in the action of a story.

- Round - A character that we know a lot about. The reader knows so much about the character.
- Flat - A character we know very little about. We may only know one or two traits about a character.
- Static - A character that never changes throughout the story.
- Dynamic - A character that changes throughout the story.
Characterization — authors use characterization to create and develop characters

**Direct** - Character traits are DIRECTLY stated in the story.

**Indirect** - Character traits are NOT DIRECTLY stated in the text. You have to infer the character traits!

**S** - SAYS

**T** - THINKS

**E** - EFFECT ON OTHERS

**A** - ACTS

**L** - LOOKS

**S** - SAID ABOUT THEM BY OTHERS
Conflict - a struggle or problem

Internal conflict - a conflict or problem within/inside a character

- **SELF**
- A conflict inside of the character - a conscience decision
deciding what college to go to, deciding whether to sneak out at night

External conflict - a struggle or problem between 2 or more opposing forces

- **PERSON**
- A struggle between two or more people

Examples - a disagreement between friends, fight, war

- **NATURE**
- A struggle between a character and the forces of nature

Examples - natural disasters, floods, blizzards, earthquakes, animals

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWZNzSJo0

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nuoxYyUdfQ
A group goes against the norms of society

Examples - hate groups, radical militia groups, cults, gangs

Person vs. SOCIETY

FATE

The character has no control over what happens. Nothing he does makes a difference.

Examples - missing a plane because you got caught in traffic and the plane crashes

Even though he’d worked for Silverton Staple Company for 26 years, Norman got laid off last week. The whole town was suffering financially, and Norman couldn’t find a job, no matter how he tried. Eventually, he lost his home and he, his bride and his hungry children lived in their car travelling to find work.
Introduces characters, setting, and conflict in a story

**Protagonist:** The main character often referred to as the "good guy."

**Antagonist:** The character or thing that is working against the main character.

**Setting – Time:** When a story takes place

**Setting – Place:** Where a story takes place

**Internal Conflict:** A struggle that happens WITHIN/INSIDE a character.

**External Conflict:** A struggle that takes place between 2 or more opposing forces.

**Inciting Incident** - the event that sets the story in motion, makes the rest of the story possible
The key events that lead up to the climax.

The turning point in the story that is NEAR THE END OF THE STORY. The action is usually at its most intense.

The key events that happen AFTER the climax that lead up to the resolution.

Most of the loose ends are tied up and the story ends. It is also called the DENOUEMENT.

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Author's Theme: The main message or moral the author wants you to get from the story.

Symbolism: Something that represents something else.

Foreshadowing: An event or clues that make you think something is going to happen later in the story.

Ironic: A literary element that involves a contradiction or contrast of some kind. Often used by writers to entertain and to convey a theme or message.
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Irony: A literary element that involves a contradiction or contrast of some kind. Often used by writers to entertain and to convey a theme or message.