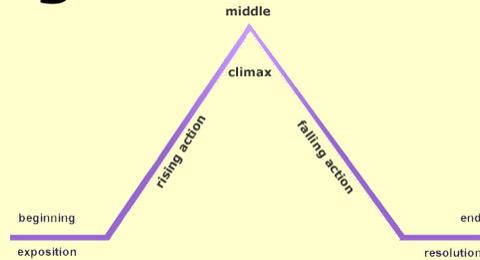


# Teaching Plot Structure Through Short Stories



Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows the arrangement of events and actions within a story.

## Types of Linear Plots

Plots can be told in



Chronological order



Flashback



In media res (in the middle of things) when the story starts in the middle of the action without exposition

# Plot Components

**Climax:** the turning point, the most intense moment—either mentally or in action

**Rising Action:** the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax

**Falling Action:** all of the action which follows the climax

**Exposition:** the start of the story, the situation before the action starts

**Resolution:** the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads

# Conflict

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.



# Types of Conflict

Interpersonal Conflict  
Human vs Human



Human vs Nature



Human vs Society



Internal Conflict  
Human vs Self



## Conflicts in The Outsiders

- 1. Human vs. Human:
  - A. Greasers vs. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Darry
- 2. Human vs. Nature:
  - A. Pony, Johnny, and Dally vs. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Human vs. Society:
  - A. Greasers vs. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Human vs. Self:
  - A.
  - B.

# Characters



- The people, animals, or other beings that take part in the stories events/plot.
- **Protagonist:** The main character in a story
- **Antagonist:** A character or force in conflict with the main character
- **Round Character:** A fully developed character with many traits (strengths and weaknesses)
- **Flat Character:** An underdeveloped character
- **Dynamic Character:** A character who grows and changes throughout story
- **Static Character:** A character who does not change in story



# Shrek Characters



- Protagonist: Shrek
- Antagonist: Lord Farquaad (stands in his way...kills ogres and tries to keep Shrek and Fiona apart.
- Shrek is a dynamic character because he changes throughout the story: he becomes "softer" and lets people into his life.
- Shrek is round because we see his strengths and weaknesses: he seems like a real person!

## The Outsiders

- Protagonist: \_\_\_\_\_
- Antagonist: \_\_\_\_\_
- Round Character(s):
- Flat Character(s):
- Dynamic Character: Ponyboy, Johnny, Randy
- Static Character: Bob

## Characterization Methods

- Direct
  - description
  - what the character says
  - what the character does
- Indirect
  - what others say about the character
  - how others react
  - outside methods

## Setting

- The time and place of a story's events.



## Theme

- The message/lesson the story conveys
- What are the big ideas? What lesson can be learned?
- Ie: **The Outsiders**: friendship, tolerance, growing up, change, innocence vs. experience, loss of innocence
  - : **Shrek**: accepting oneself, true beauty is not external



## Point of view: who is telling the story



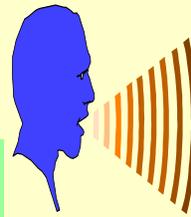
**First person: a person inside the story is telling it**

**Major: a main character is telling it**

**Minor: a minor character is telling it**

**Narrator: a person is relating what happened to others**

## Point of view



**Third person: a person outside of the story is telling it**

**Omniscient: "All knowing"**

**Limited omniscient: we follow around one or two characters knowing what they do and think**

## Other terms

- **tone:** the author's attitude toward the work (happy, sad, scary, suspenseful)



- **mood/atmosphere:** the emotional effect created by a work
  - Edgar Allen Poe's stories create a scary/intense/feeling in the reader...

## Symbolism

- **symbol:** something stands for a concept larger than itself
  - standard or cultural symbols
  - author-created symbols



= Innocence

America/Democracy/Freedom



= Peace



## More terms

- **Foreshadowing:** hints or clues of what is to come
- **Imagery:** painting pictures with words
- **Flashback:** going back to past events
- **Style/Diction:** the author's manner of writing and word choice.
  - S.E. Hinton uses a lot of slang to make *The Outsiders* more realistic to teenage talk.

