

## The Elements of the Short Story

**Setting: Time and place in a story. Setting can affect mood and meaning.**

Characterization: The way the author helps the reader see the character.

Direct description of the character.

What the character says.

What the character does.

What the character thinks.

What others say about the character.

**Point of View: The person telling the story.**

First person point of view (a character tells the story and the pronoun “I” is used).

Third person limited (the author tells the story and the pronouns “he”, “she”, and “it” are used). The author will only let you know what one character is thinking.

Third person omniscient (the author tells the story and the pronouns “he”, “she”, and “they” are used).

The author will let you know what all the characters are thinking.

**Plot: The events in a story. Plot is what happens. Plot can be divided into six parts:**

The exposition.

The complication or initiating incident.

The rising action.

The climax.

The falling action.

The resolution.

**Conflict: The opposing forces in a story. Conflict can be external or internal.**

**Types of conflict are:**

Man vs. Man.

Man vs. Nature.

Man vs. Society.

Man vs. The Supernatural.

Man vs. Self (internal).

**Theme: The message or underlying truth about human beings that is revealed through the story.**

**Tone: The author’s attitude toward his subject.**