

# Short Story Terms

Review- take notes!



# What is a Short Story?



- A short story is : a brief work of fiction where, usually, the main character faces a conflict that is worked out in the plot of the story

# Character

- Character – a person in a story, poem or play.
- Types of Characters:
  - Round- fully developed, has many different character traits
  - Flat- stereotyped, one-dimensional, few traits
  - Static – Does not change
  - Dynamic – Changes as a result of the story's events

# Characterization

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- How the author develops the characters, especially the main character.
- This is done through:
  - what the character does or says
  - what others say of and to the character
  - author's word choice in descriptive passages

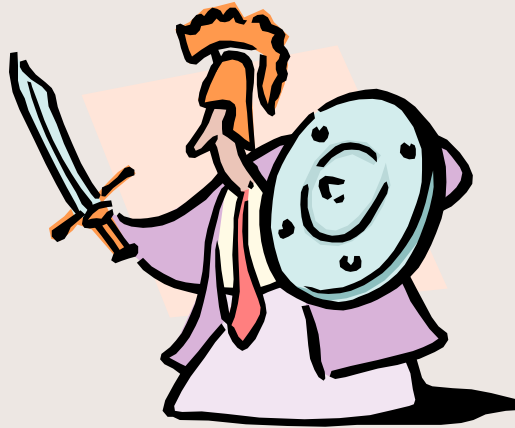
# Characterization

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- Direct characterization
  - The author directly states what the character's personality is like. Example: cruel, kind
- Indirect characterization
  - Showing a character's personality through his/her actions, thoughts, feelings, words, appearance or other character's observations or reactions

# Protagonist

- Main character of the story that changes
  - (death is not a change)
  - the most important character
  - changes and grows because of experiences in the story



# Antagonist

- A major character who opposes the protagonist
  - the antagonist does not change
- Types of antagonists:
  - people
  - nature
  - society



# Conflict

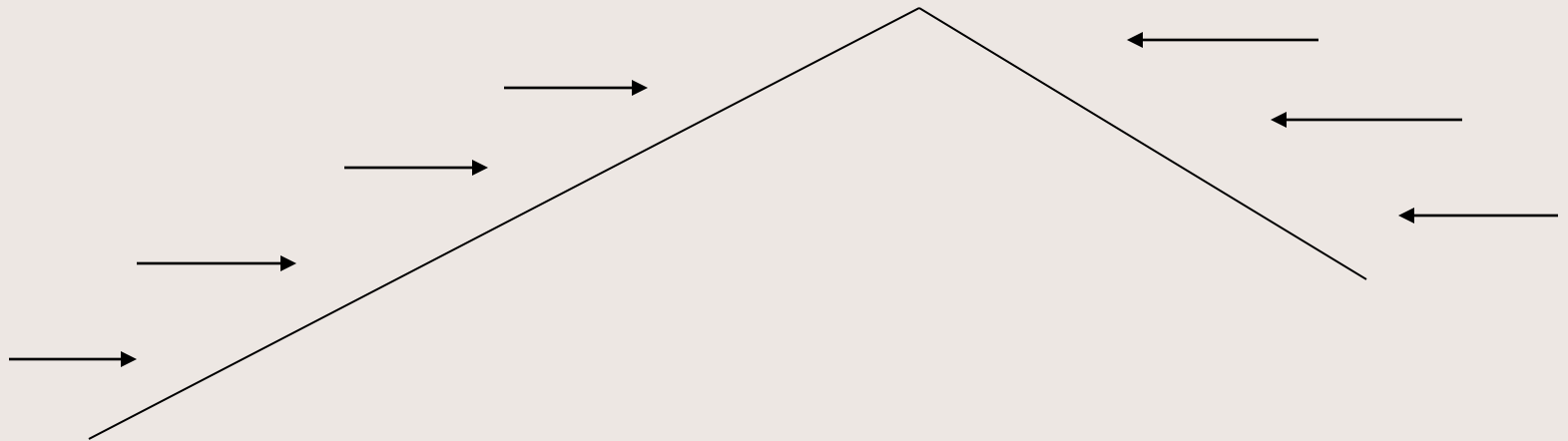
- A struggle between two opposing forces
- Types
  - Internal – takes place in a character's own mind
    - Man vs. Him(Her)self
  - External – a character struggles against an outside force
    - Man vs. Man
    - Man vs. Nature
    - Man vs. technology, progress
    - Man vs. Society
    - Man vs. Supernatural





# What is the Plot?

- Plot: Series of related events that make up a story.



# Exposition

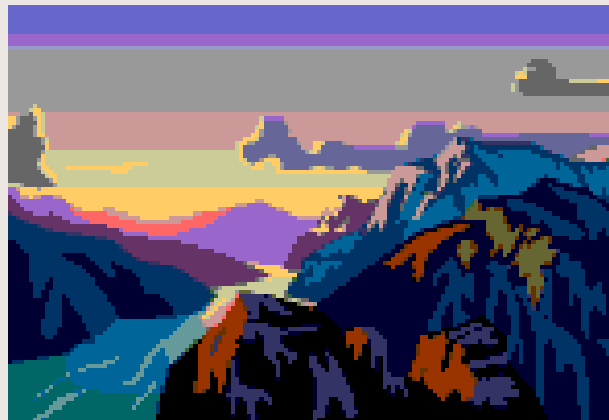
- Section that introduces characters, the setting, and conflicts.



# Setting

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- The time and place of the story's action



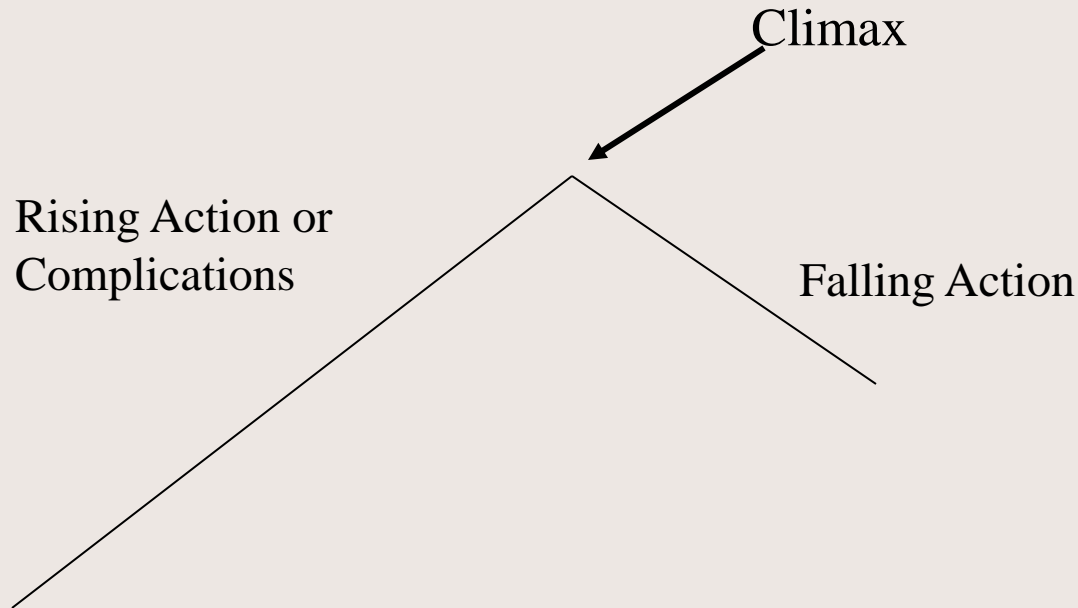
# Rising Action

- Consists of a series of complications.
- These occur when the main characters take action to resolve their problems and are met with further problems:
  - Fear
  - Hostility
  - Threatening situation



# Climax

- The turning point in the story: the high point of interest and suspense



# Falling Action

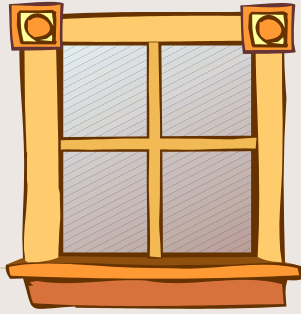
- All events following the climax or turning point in the story. These events are a result of the action taken at the climax.



# Resolution

- (Denouement)
- The end of the central conflict: it shows how the situation turns out and ties up loose ends





# Point of View

- Vantage point from which the writer tells the story.
  - First person- One of the characters is actually telling the story using the pronoun “I”
  - Third person- Centers on one character’s thoughts and actions.
  - Omniscient- All knowing narrator. Can center on the thoughts any actions of any and all characters.



# Theme

- The central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work.
  - The “main idea” of the story



# Flashback

- The present scene in the story is interrupted to flash backward and tell what happened in an earlier time.



# Foreshadowing

- Clues the writer puts in the story to give the reader a hint of what is to come.



# Symbol

- An object, person, or event that functions as itself, but also stands for something more than itself.
  - Example: Scales function is to weigh things, but they are also a symbol of our justice system.



# Figurative Language

- Involves some imaginative comparison between two unlike things.
  - Simile – comparing two unlike things using like or as.
    - “I wandered lonely as a cloud”
  - Metaphor – comparing two unlike things (not using like or as)
    - Life is a roller coaster, it has lots of ups and downs.

# Figurative Language

- Personification – Giving human qualities to non-human things.
  - “The wind howled”



# Irony

- A contrast between expectation and reality



# Irony

- Verbal Irony – saying one thing but meaning something completely different.
  - Calling a clumsy basketball player “Michael Jordan”
- Situational Irony – A contradiction between what we expect to happen and what really does happen
- Dramatic Irony – occurs when the reader knows something important that the characters in the story do not know.





**Dramatic irony** is used in a narrative when an event occurs whose significance the audience understands but the characters do not.

For example, in *Romeo and Juliet* when the characters think that Juliet is dead but the audience knows she's only been knocked out by a sleeping potion. Or this scene from my upcoming feature film, *Mayonnaise Volcano Warriors*:\*

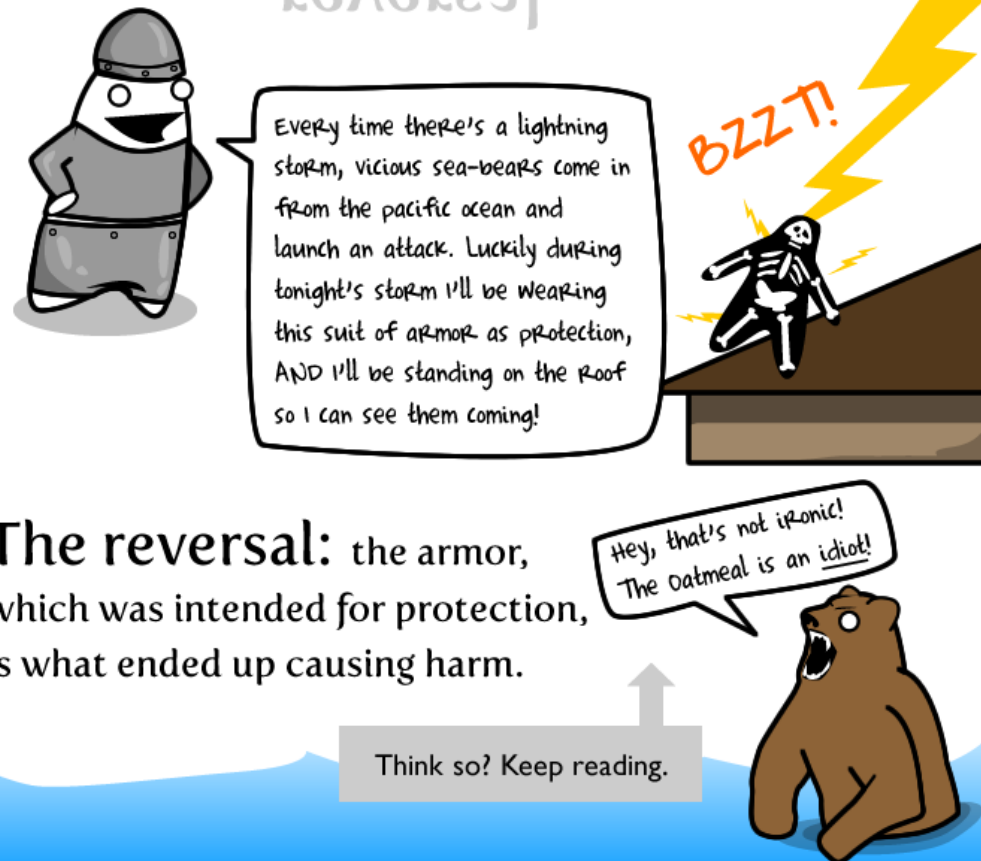


\* *Mayonnaise Volcano Warriors* is not actually an upcoming feature film.

## 2 Situational Irony

Situational irony is when something happens and a reversal of expectations occurs.

The key is the **reversal**. For example:



# Allusion

- Reference to a statement, person, a place, or events from:
  - Literature
  - History
  - Religion
  - Mythology
  - Politics
  - Sports



# Suspense

- Uncertainty or anxiety the reader feels about what is going to happen next in a story.



# Imagery

- Language that appeals to the senses.
  - Touch
  - Taste
  - Sight
  - Sound
  - Smell

Example:

Creating a picture in the  
readers mind through  
description

