

Narrative Short Stories Knowledge Organizer

(Short) Story Elements			
<i>Short stories can usually be read in one sitting. Their concise length means that certain story elements are emphasized and used in specific ways.</i>			
Story Element	Definition	In Short Stories...	
Setting	Time and place of the story; can include social/historical context, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually of heightened symbolic importance; often used to quickly establish a strong mood 	
Rising Action	Events in the story become complicated as conflict is revealed, then builds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often features increasing tension Might include foreshadowing and symbolism that become clearer on a second read 	
Climax	The major turning point in the story; usually its most intense or exciting part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often an ironic twist or surprise that ends the story 	
Falling Action/Resolution	Events “fall into place” and conflict begins to resolve before leading to a conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often shortened or nonexistent “Loose ends” often left untied 	
Narration and Storytelling			
<i>The narration style establishes the relationships among the author, narrator, and characters.</i>			
Point of View: the narrator’s position in relation to a story being told	First Person	Narrator tells events from their own perspective; uses pronouns “I,” “me,” “we,” etc.	
	Second Person	Narrator directly addresses the reader or other audience; uses pronouns “you,” “your,” etc.	
	Third Person	Narrator describes events using pronouns “he,” “she,” “they,” etc. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Limited: the story is told through the eyes of one character</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Omniscient: the narrator sees everything and can move from the mind of one character to another</td> </tr> </table>	Limited: the story is told through the eyes of one character
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Retrospective Narration	Past-tense, first-person narration in which the narrator looks back on past events		
Nonlinear Narration	Events are told out of order and jump around in time		
Stream of Consciousness	Thoughts, feelings, and reactions depicted in a continuous flow, attempting to mimic the processes of thinking		

Stories and Authors		
Year	Title	Author and Author Notes
1969	“Marigolds”	Eugenia Collier , American, grew up in Maryland
1982	“The Stolen Party”	Liliana Heker , Argentine political writer
Motif, Theme, and Conflict		
<i>Short stories often convey powerful universal messages about the human experience.</i>		
Conflict: any form of struggle or opposition faced by a character	Internal: Struggle within one’s self	Character vs. Self: Struggles with one’s own choices, limitations, behaviors, thoughts, feelings, etc.
	External: Struggle with a force outside one’s self	Character vs. Character: Struggles with other people Character vs. Nature: Struggles with animals, weather, environment, etc. Character vs. Society: Struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of a group Character vs. Fate/the Supernatural: Struggles against fate or a spiritual/religious force
Theme: a message conveyed by a text that applies to multiple other texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually connects to a major conflict or argument Multiple texts may explore the same thematic idea (e.g., “justice”), but a theme statement describes the message a text conveys about that idea (e.g., “Justice is difficult to achieve when a group is dehumanized.”) 	
Motif: a meaningful pattern; an image, idea, or symbol that repeats throughout a text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps develop the theme Might be specific to a single text or occur across literature 	