Grade 7/8 ELA - STORY TERMS

Atmosphere – the overall feeling we get from the story from words and images used to describe the setting, e.g., cheerful, anxious, menacing.

Character – is a person in the story

Character Sketch – a brief description of a character that shows attitudes, feelings, thoughts, and personality. It also describes if a person changes in the story.

Conflict – a struggle between opposing forces; conflict may be described as:

    internal – a struggle inside a person;

    external – a struggle against the environment/nature or society, or struggle against another person(interpersonal)

    Conflicts may also be described as:

    main – the central conflict that moves the plot forward;

    minor – secondary conflict that does not influence the plot a great deal

Dialogue – the actual words that characters speak

Flashback –presenting something that happened before the story that helps explain the current situation.

Foreshadowing – provides clues about events that may happen later in the story.

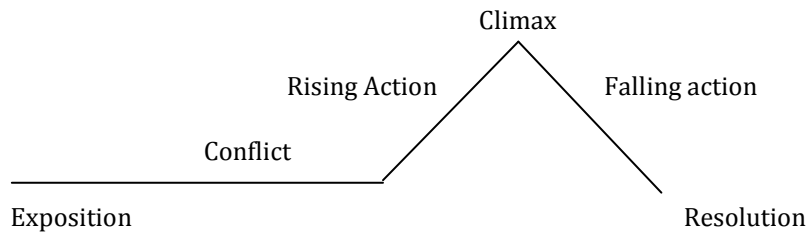**Irony** – can be defined as:

    Verbal Irony –   when what a character says and thinks he or she means is actually different from what the audience perceives is meant;

    Situational Irony – when there is a difference between what is expected to happen and what actually does happen;

Narrator – the speaker who tells the story

Plot – the author's arrangement of events that make up the action of a story; includes:

- *Exposition* – background material about the characters, setting, and situation
- *Conflict* – any obstacle/problem that increases the tension of the story;
- *Rising action* – a series of events in the story that builds the suspense
- *Climax* – the moment when the action comes to its highest point of conflict
- *Resolution* –pulls together all the loose threads of the story

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Point of view – the perspective from which the story is told. Includes:

    First person (eg. I) – the narrator participates in the action of the story*;*

    Third person (eg. he, she, Mary, Mr. Tucker, *etc.*) – the narrator does not participate in the action of the story; may be classified as*:*

        1) Omniscient – the narrator presents the thoughts of more than one of the characters;

        2) Limited – the narrator presents only his or her own thoughts which is only one side of the story

Setting –time, place and circumstances of a story

Suspense –how the author keeps the reader interested and wondering what will happen next

Theme – the story's main message or statement

Guide to Answer Questions Using Proper Answer Format

How to answer a literary question using proper answer format:

1. Opening sentence (include genre, title, author and term being discussed)
2. Define term
3. Answer the question (explanation)
4. Prove your response using direct references from the text (quote)
5. Closing sentence

How to answer a conflict question:

1. Opening sentence
2. Define conflict
3. Explanation
   a. Which type of conflict is present in this story? Define the type.
   b. Who is the conflict between?
   c. How did it develop?
   d. Discuss / make reference to the conflict
   e. Is the conflict resolved at the end of the story?
4. Quote for support
5. Closing sentence

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How to answer a setting question:

1. Opening sentence (include title, author and term being discussed)
2. Define term
3. Explanation
   a. Give 2-3 details about the time
   b. Give -3 details about the place
   c. Give 1 sentence (10 words) that tells what the story is about
4. Prove your response using direct references from the text (quote)
5. Closing sentence

How to answer a theme question:

1. Opening sentence (include title, author and term being discussed)
2. Define term
3. Explanation
   a. State the theme as a statement (Ex: If you have determination you can succeed).
   b. Clearly show how you got the message (through the events in the story, or through the character development)
4. Prove your response using direct references from the text (quote)
5. Closing sentence

How to answer a plot summary question:

1. Take jot notes on the main events in the story
2. First jot note should tell how the story begins
3. Continue taking jot notes on the story's main events
4. Last jot note should tell how the story end
   - Do NOT worry if you have more than 7 jot notes (1 beginning jot note, 5 main events and 1 ending jot note)
5. Read through your jot notes. If you have more than 5, remove the ones that are less important
6. Follow the proper answer format (O,D,E,Q,C), and write each of your jot notes into complete sentences in the correct order for the explanation.
7. Remember to give a quote for support one of the events that you included in your summary

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How to answer a suspense question:

1. Opening sentence (include title, author and term being discussed)
2. Define term
3. Explanation
   a. Give 2-3 examples of suspense
   b. Explain why each example caused you to want to keep reading
4. Prove your response using direct references from the text (quote)
5. Closing sentence

How to answer a connection question:

1. Opening sentence (include title, author and term being discussed)
2. Define term
3. Explanation
   a. Describe your connction in DETAIL (who,what,why,where,when).
   b. Explain in DETAIL how the text you are currently reading is similar (character, plot, theme, conflict, etc)
4. Prove your response using direct references from the text (quote)
5. Closing sentence

How to write a character sketch:

Paragraph 1
- physical description
- mention the 3 character traits you will discuss

Paragraph 2
- discuss trait #1
- give 2 or 3 examples that show the trait

Paragraph 3
- discuss trait #2
- give 2 or 3 examples that show the trait

Paragraph 4
- discuss trait #3
- give 2 or 3 examples that show the trait

Paragraph 5
- closing sentence that mentions the 3 traits again
- tell if you liked/ could relate to the character and why

- Remember to include ONE quote in your essay to support an example given (can be for any of the traits you listed)