SHORT STORY ELEMENTS
SHORT STORY ELEMENTS DEFINED

SETTING
Time and place in which a story happens.

CONFLICT
The problems or struggle in the story.

CHARACTERS
Main and minor characters’ whose thoughts and actions greatly impact the plot.

POINT OF VIEW
The perspective from which the story is told.

First Person - The narrator is a character in the story and refers to himself or herself as “I.”

Third Person Limited - Inside thoughts of only one character are revealed. The reader does not know any thoughts of other characters.

Third Person Omniscient - The narrator is all-knowing and reveals the inside thoughts and feelings of any character in the story.

PLOT
The order in which the author has chosen to convey the events in a story.

Exposition
The introduction of the setting, characters, and conflict.

Rising Action
Events that build to the point of greatest.

Climax
The most suspense and action in the story. The peak of the story.

Falling Action
The conflict begins to unravel and usually the last moment of suspense.

Denouement
The resolution or ending of the story. Event or events that occur after the climax, but before the story’s actual ending.

THEME
The main message or main idea of the story.
Thank you!

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