**Grade 7 and 8 Short 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

Climax

Rising Action Falling action

Conflict

Exposition Resolution

**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 lesson that we learn.

**How to Answer Questions**

**How to answer a literary question in proper answer format on setting, theme, or suspense:**

1. **Re-state question** (include **title, author, genre** and **term** being discussed)
2. **Answer all parts of question (**include **definition** and **explanation** of term)
3. **Cite evidence (**give a direct quote as support)
4. **Explain quote**
5. **Summary sentence**

**How to answer a conflict question in proper answer format:**

1. **Re-state question** (include **title, author, genre** and **term** being discussed)
2. **Answer all parts of question** 
   1. **Define** key term
   2. **Explanation** of answer:
      * Tell the **type of conflict** that is present in this story.
      * Give the **definition** of the specific type.
      * Tell **who the conflict is between**.
      * Tell how the **conflict started**.
      * Tell some **details about the conflict** or what happened.
      * Tell **if the conflict was solved** or resolved at the end of the story.
3. **Cite evidence** (give a quote to support your answer)
4. **Explain quote** (explain what the quote supports)
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 ends.
   * 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. Write each of your jot notes into complete sentences in the correct order in a paragraph.

**How to write a character sketch:**

In ONE paragraph, using proper answer format, include the following:

1. Restate question in a statement that includes the story’s name, the character’s name, and the author’s name
2. Answer all parts of question
   1. Definition of character
   2. Explain

* physical description and background information of the character (what they look like? age? job? family?, etc.)
* give 2 personality traits
* give 2 examples for each trait

1. Cite evidence from the text to prove ONE of the traits
2. Explain quote (explain what the quote is proving)
3. Summary sentence saying why you liked or disliked the character