Collection 1 Literary Terms

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| Term | Definition | Example |
| Plot | A series of related events in a story, each connected to the next |  |
| Sequence | The order in which a story’s events take place |  |
| Exposition | The opening of a story, when the characters and their conflicts are introduced |  |
| Conflict | A struggle between two forces |  |
| External Conflict | A struggle between two characters, between a character and a group, or between a character and an animal or force in nature |  |
| Internal Conflict | A struggle that takes place within a character’s mind or heart |  |
| Climax | The most exciting part of a story; the moment when the outcome of the conflict is determined. The climax usually comes near the end of a short story |  |
| Resolution | (also called denouement). The very end of the story, when loose ends of the plot are tied up. |  |
| Flashback | An action that interrupts the story to introduce an event that took place in the past |  |
| Flash-forward | An action that jumps ahead of the story to narrate an event that happens at a latter time |  |
| Foreshadowing | Hints in the story that certain events are going to happen later |  |
| Setting | The time and place in which the story happens |  |
| Atmosphere | Mood or feelings brought on by a story’s setting |  |
| Sensory Details | Imagery that appeals to the senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, smell |  |
| Figurative Details | Comparisons using similes or metaphors to describe |  |
| Factual Details | Facts of the story |  |

Collection 2 Literary Terms

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| Literary Term | Definition | Example |
| Characterization | The way writers create characters in a story |  |
| Direct Characterization | Writers tell us directly what a character is like (“good” or “evil” or “lazy”) |  |
| Indirect Characterization | You use clues in the story to decide what kind of person a character is. Clues may be descriptions of how the character acts, speaks, and thinks and how other people respond to the character |  |
| Protagonist | The main character in the story |  |
| Antagonist | The character that the main character (protagonist) struggles against |  |
| Subordinate characters | Minor characters in the story |  |
| Motivations | The reasons behind a character’s actions and feelings |  |
| Flat Character | A character who is not fully developed in the story. A flat character is almost never the main character |  |
| Round Character | A character who is fully developed, just as a person in actual life is |  |
| Dynamic Character | A character who changes during the story. The change might involve recognition of some truth about life |  |
| Static Character | A character who does not change during the story |  |
| Dialogue | The conversations characters have with other characters |  |
| First-person narration | A story told by an “I” narrator. An “I” narrator is a character in the story |  |
| Second-person narration | A story told where the narrator addresses the audience using “you” or “we” |  |
| Third-person narrator | Story is told using he/she/they |  |
| Third-person narrator limited | The reader only knows what occurs outside of the character, although we might know the internal thoughts of the main character |  |
| Third person omniscient | The reader knows the internal thoughts of most of the characters. |  |