RW6 - Maling

**Basic Literary Terms for Short Stories**

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| **Term** | **Meaning** | **Examples** | **Short story** |
| **Short story** | A fictional narrative generally centering on one climactic event and usually developing only a single character in depth; its scope is narrower than that of a novel. | Cinderella | The Appointment in Samarra |
| **Plot** | The way in which the narrative events are arranged. Generally, plots have the same basic elements:   * **Exposition -** the explanation of the story's premise and **background** material necessary for the reader to understand the story; * **Conflict**- problem * **Climax** - the scene which presents the story's decisive action; * **Resolution or denouement** - the outcome of the story--the information that ties up all (or many) of the story's loose ends. |  |  |
| **Point of view (P.O.V.)** | The angle from which a story is told; i.e., the type of narrator the author chooses to use   * In **first-person narration** the narrator uses "I" to tell his or her story. The first-person narrator may be a major character in the story or simply an observer. * In **third-person narration** narrators are not actually characters in the story. |  |  |
| **Character** | A fictional representation of a person (or animal).   * **Protagonist-** The main character. * **Antagonist-** The opponent of the protagonist. The antagonist may be a person, nature, or society. | Protagonist - Cinderella  Antagonist - Step-mother and step-sisters |  |
| **Theme** | the central or dominant idea of the whole story | True love always wins  Justice is served |  |
| **Setting** | the historical, physical, geographical, and psychological location where a fictional work takes place: place and time. | Harry Potter (not short story)  -modern day / unreal world  -England |  |
| **Style** | the way a writer selects and arranges words to express ideas | Is the language very...  Direct / Indirect  Long / short sentences, descriptions |  |
| **Tone** | the attitude of the speaker or author of a work toward the subject matter | + positive, hopeful  0 neutral  - negative, sarcastic |  |
| **Symbol** | Anything that stands for something else, often a thing that stands for an idea. | - a red rose is a symbol of love  -a dead rose - dead love  -black bird/cat - bad luck  -broken mirror  -white flowers - death  -a calm lake - peace |  |
| **Metaphor** | comparison equating two things that may seem at first dissimilar | -he is a rock  -she is a ball of emotions  -life is a race  -no man is an island  -I'm fishing for Mr. Right  -my heart is broken  -time is a thief |  |
| **Simile** | comparison of two seemingly unlike things using the words like or as | -her eyes sparkle **like** diamonds  -busy **as** a bee  -life is **like** a box of chocolates  -she was cold **as** ice |  |
| **Alliteration** | repetition of initial sounds in a series of words | -it was a snowy, silver, splendid scene  -she is cute as a kitten  -he was quick as a cat  -Alice's aunt always ate apples around August. |  |
| **Personification** | attributing of human qualities to things that are not human. | -The leaves danced in the wind.  -The old house appeared depressed.  - She did not realize that opportunity was knocking at her door. |  |
| **Hyperbole** | figurative speech that depends on overstatement or exaggeration. | -I left you a thousand messages.  -I am so hungry I could eat a horse.  -I have a million things to do.  -I have a ton of homework.  -If I can’t buy that new car, I will die. |  |
| **Irony** | Irony is the opposite of what is expected. | -The Olympic swimmer drowned in the bath.  -A policeman gets a ticket for driving too fast.  -An old man who wins the lottery and dies the next day.  -You have 20 spoons when all you need is a knife. |  |