

Vocabulary & Questions

Plot: The plan or action *and* the reason why. The organization of the characters and action in order to achieve particular effects. Plot is not the “story”, which is the summary of the events without considering how they are interrelated.

Character: A person or animal in a story. You learn what they are like by the way the author or illustrator portrays them.

Climax: The most exciting point in the story.

Setting: Where the story takes place—what it looks like, feels like, smells like, and time of day.

Main character: Is usually the protagonist/hero of the story.

Antagonist: The protagonist's enemy—it may be a person or an event.

Protagonist: The leading character of the story which the reader may not even like.

Problem: The conflict between the protagonist and antagonist.

Point of View: The perspective from which a story is presented; it is similar to the point from which the camera sees the action in movie. The two main point of views are (1) the third-person (omniscient) narrator, who stands outside the story itself and may know everything about every character or have limited knowledge about some characters, and (2) the first-person narrator, who is a character in the story. Dialogue from the first-person narrator is written as: “Stop that!” **I** yelled.

Reversal: Point in the story in which something unexpected occurs. Neither the reader or character(s) expect it.

Alliteration: The repetition of consonantal sounds in words close together, particularly using letters at the beginning of words.

Onomatopoeia: Refers to words which resemble in sound what they make ("hiss," "rattle," "bang").