Fitzgerald

Literary Analysis

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| **Plot**  the series of events in the story | **Character Development**  How does the reader learn what the main character is like?  **Direct Development of Character –**   * Information given directly to the reader about the character by the narrator   **Indirect Development of Character**  What the reader can infer from -   * What the character does * What the character says * What the character thinks * What other characters do * What other characters say * What other characters think |
| **Exposition**   * First Paragraph in the Story * The First Step in the Plot   **Exposition Must Introduce**   * Main Character * Main Character’s Conflict * Setting –   + Where,   + When, and   + Over what period of time does a story takes place |
| **Examples of Setting used to create Mood**   * Dickens *Pickwick Papers* - ***calm and peaceful*** * “The river, reflecting the clear blue of the sky, glistened and sparkled as it flowed noiselessly on.” * Emily Bronte *Wuthering Heights* - two contrasting settings in two neighboring houses: * Wuthering Heights is **depressing**: “There was no moon, and everything beneath lay in misty darkness: not a light gleamed from any house, far or near all had been extinguished long ago: and those at Wuthering Heights were never visible…” * Thrushcross Grange is ***calm and peaceful mood***:   “Gimmerton chapel bells were still ringing; and the full, mellow flow of the creek in the valley came soothingly on the ear. It was a sweet substitute for the yet absent murmur of the summer foliage, which drowned that music about the Grange when the trees were in leaf.” | **Two Types of Conflict**  Internal and External  **Internal Conflict**   * Character v. Self   **External Conflict**   * Character v. Another Character * Character v. Society * Character v. Nature * Character v. a Higher Power * Character v. Technology |
| **Rising Action**  Steps of action  that increase readers’ understanding of main character’s conflict  Novel   * One or two steps per chapter   Short Story   * one step (sometimes two)per paragraph or dialogue | **Climax**  the point in the story when the conflict ends   * One sentence * Before this sentence there is conflict * After this sentence there is no conflict * Very near the end – as there will be only about 2 to 5 steps of falling action and the resolution lefts, so only 3 to 6 paragraphs left |
| **Suspense**  Intense form of rising action that creates an emotional sensation of fear and expectation in the reader  **Techniques that build Suspense**   * **a perceived danger** * **foreshadowing** – a hint of something bad that will happen * **uncertainty** - don’t know when, where, how the bad thing will happen * **vigilance** – waiting, watching, listening for the arrival of the bad thing   + time passes slowly * **near**-**misses** – times when you think the bad thing has arrived, but find you were mistaken * character **puts himself or herself in danger** * **character has a weakness** that makes it difficult from him to protect himself   + the character is alone * the **reader has information about the danger that the character does not have** * the **reader feels he wants to protect the character but can’t** * **time begins to run out** – time begins to move very quickly as danger has arrived and character trying to save himself or others | **Falling Action**   * Contains No Conflict * Ties of Loose Ends * Usually 3 to 5 Steps of Action   **Resolution**   * leaves a “freeze frame” image in the reader’s mind at the end of the story * the image makes the reader think about the character moving on in life * should support or at least not distract from the theme |
| **Theme**   * The message about life sent by the story * Not too general, Not too cliché   Cliché refers to an expression that has been overused to the extent it now sounds boring and at times irritating.   * + Every cloud has a silver lining.   + He was as brave as a lion.   + She moved at the speed of light   + Ex. Of a Cliché theme – “Life is rough.” * What the reader specifically learns –   + Ex “A Crush” – Loving someone effects not only the receiver but the giver |
| **Point of View**  Who is telling the story?  1st person –   * The Main Character tells his/her own story   3rd Person –   * Another Character or an Omniscient Narrator tells the story   3rd Person Limited -   * Do not know the thoughts of characters, may not be able to be in more than one place at a time   3rd person Omniscient –   * “Omni-” = “all” * “-scient” = “knowing” * Know the thoughts of all the charaters * Can be in more than one place at a time | **Reliability of Narrator**   * The question of whether the narrator’s version of the story, the way the narrator perceives things, should be trusted |