

Literary Elements

Cause & effect

In informational text: a structure the writer uses to show causes. In narrative text: reader's analysis of what led up to (caused) events, and what resulted (effect) from events. Further information:

- Cause = the reason something happens
- Effect = what happens as a result of the cause.
- Signal words that indicate a cause and effect relationship: *as a result, until, therefore, hence, consequently, for this reason*

Character Traits

Stable aspects of a character's physical being or personality, including how a character usually looks, dresses, talks, thinks, feels, and acts (or refrains from action).

Climax

The moment in a story or a play when there is a definite change in direction and one becomes aware that it is now about to move toward the end. The **turning point** or point with the most excitement and/or tension.

Conflict

The problem or struggle in a story that triggers the action. Conflicts may be internal (struggles from within a character) or external. Types of external conflict include: character vs. character, character vs. nature, character vs. supernatural, character vs. machine/technology, character vs. society.

Contrast

A major difference between any two elements of a story (two characters, two settings, a character before and after an event)

Figurative Language

Simile: Compares two things using _____ or _____.

Metaphor: Compares two things **without** using _____ or _____.

Personification: Describes something by giving it _____ qualities.

Hyperbole: Is an _____.

Repetition: the _____ of _____ or _____

Genre

The description or classification of the type of work. Genres can be broadly categorized as fiction, or non-fiction.

• Fiction/Narrative Text Genres

- **Drama:** Stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.
- **Fable:** Narration demonstrating a useful truth, especially in which animals speak as humans; legendary, supernatural tale.
- **Fairy Tale:** Story about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.
- **Fantasy:** Fiction with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.
- **Fiction:** Narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact.
- **Fiction in Verse:** Full-length novels with plot, subplot(s), theme(s), major and minor characters, in which the narrative is presented in (usually blank) verse form.
- **Folklore:** The songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a people or "folk" as handed down by word of mouth.
- **Historical Fiction:** Story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting.
- **Horror:** Fiction in which events evoke a feeling of dread in both the characters and the reader.
- **Humor:** Fiction full of fun, fancy, and excitement, meant to entertain; but can be contained in all genres
- **Legend:** Story, sometimes of a national or folk hero, which has a basis in fact but also includes imaginative material.