

LITERARY ELEMENTS

The “Building Blocks” of Story

Character/Point of View — Readers see the story through the 5 senses of the main point of view character who is telling the story.

Setting — Time and place, when and where the story takes place. (This sets the mood and tone.)

Plot — Sequence of what happens in a story — beginning, middle and end.

Motivation — What the main character wants (This drives the story action.)

Conflict — Challenge the main character must overcome to get what she/he wants.

Theme — Underlying controlling idea that drives the story.

Foreshadowing — A hint about what is to come later in the story.

Irony — The contrast between what might be expected to happen and what actually does happen.

Figurative Language — Similes, metaphors and other such figures of speech that go beyond the strictly literal to make writing more powerful and descriptive.

Alliteration — A literary device in which several words that start with the same letter (usually a consonant) appear together to create a memorable passage, word referent or title.