Elements of Fiction Notes

Fiction literature that comes from the author’s imagination

Short Story a short simple story that revolves around one major

conflict

Novel a story that contains more than one conflict and includes complications

Setting time and place of the story (where and when)

Characters the people, animals, or imaginary creatures in the story

Main characters the characters the story revolves around

Minor characters the characters in the story that just build background

Round Character a character that the reader knows a lot about

Flat Character a character the reader knows only one or two things about

Dynamic Character a character that changes through the course of the story Ex. Brian in Hatchet

Static Character a character that has little change in the story

Protagonist The main character, hero or heroine

Antagonist The character who goes against the protagonist

Conflict the problem the character faces

Internal conflict the problem the character faces with himself

External conflict the problem the character faces with other

characters, nature, or society

# Resolution the end of the story where the problem is solved

# Conclusion the end of the story where the problem is not

solved

Plot the sequence of events in the story

Parts of a plot Exposition

Rising action

Climax

Falling action

Resolution/Conclusion

Diagram of a plot

3

2 4

5

1

## 1 Exposition the beginning of the story – introduces the

## characters, conflict, and setting

# 2 Rising action complications (little problems centered around the

main conflict

# 3 Climax the most interesting part of the story usually right

before the problem is solved

4 Falling Action the part of the story that wraps everything up

5 Resolution the end of the story where the problem is solved

Theme a message about life that the story conveys to its

readers

# Point of view the perspective from which a story is told

Two points of view first person point of view

second person point of view

First person the perspective of a character in the story

uses the pronouns I, me, or we

Third person the perspective from a narrator outside the story

uses the pronouns he, she, they

# Types of fiction Realistic fiction

Science fiction

Historical fiction

Realistic fiction a story that seems like it could really happen;

however, it is totally made up

Science fiction a made up story that is based on something in

science; for example, space travel, cloning, etc

Historical fiction a story that is based on something that really

happened, but the author incorporates something

fictional in it. Example: Titanic (movie)