



ELEMENTS OF A STORY

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

STORY ELEMENTS

- Setting
- Characters
- Plot
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Point of View
- Theme



SETTING

Setting is the **"where and when"** of a story. It is the **time and place** during which the story takes place.



SETTING

Time and place are where the action occurs.

Details that describe:

- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Scenery
- ✓ Customs
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Dialects
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Time of day
- ✓ Time of year



FUNCTIONS OF A SETTING

- To create a mood or atmosphere.
- To show a reader a different way of life.
- To make an action seem more real.
- To be the source of conflict or struggle.
- To symbolize an idea.

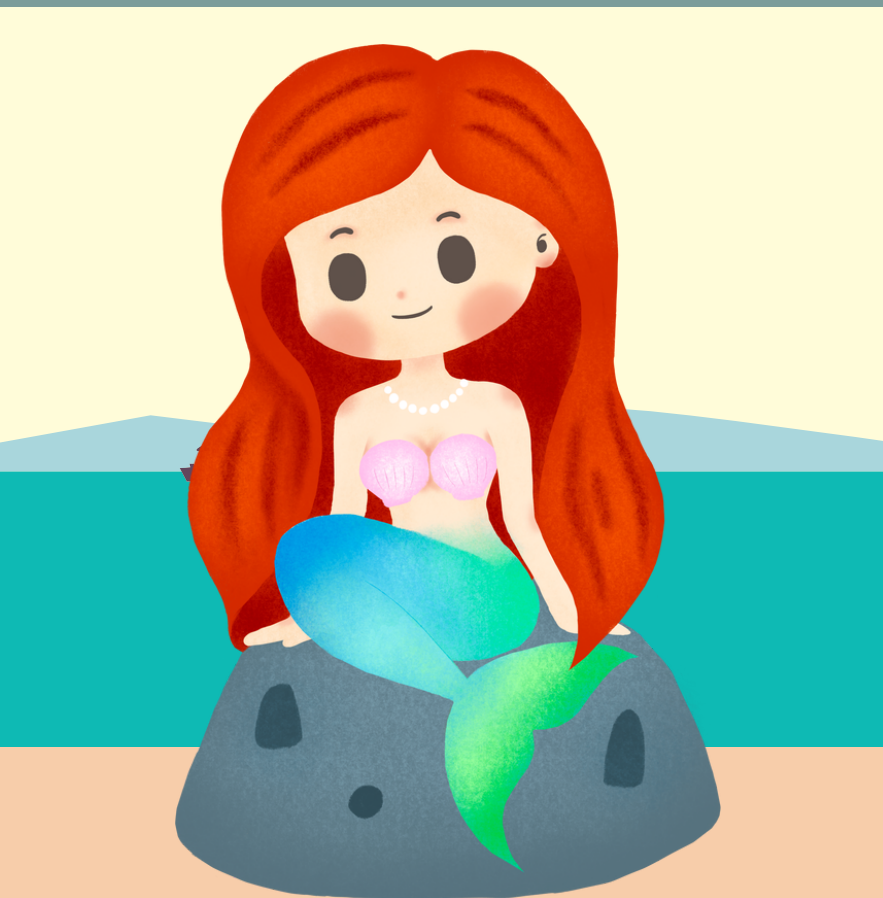




CHARACTERS

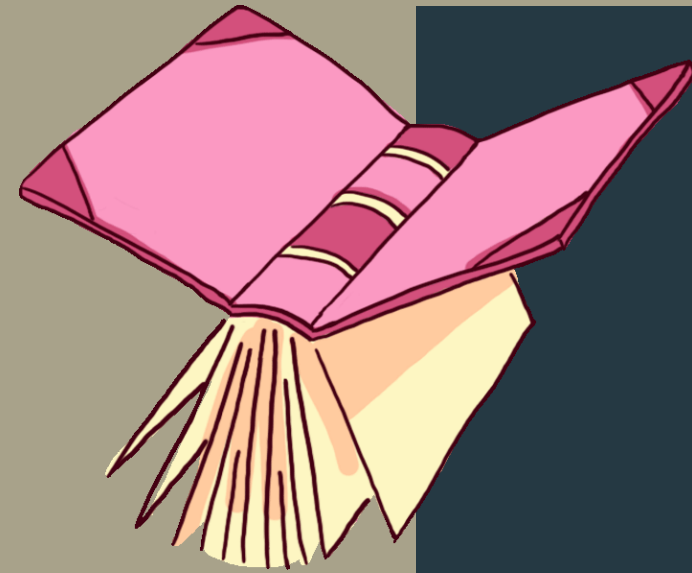


The person, animals, and things participating in a story.



CHARACTERS

Protagonist and **antagonist** are used to describe characters.



WHO IS THE PROTAGONIST?

The **protagonist** is the main character of the story, the one with who the reader identifies. This person is not necessarily a "good" person.

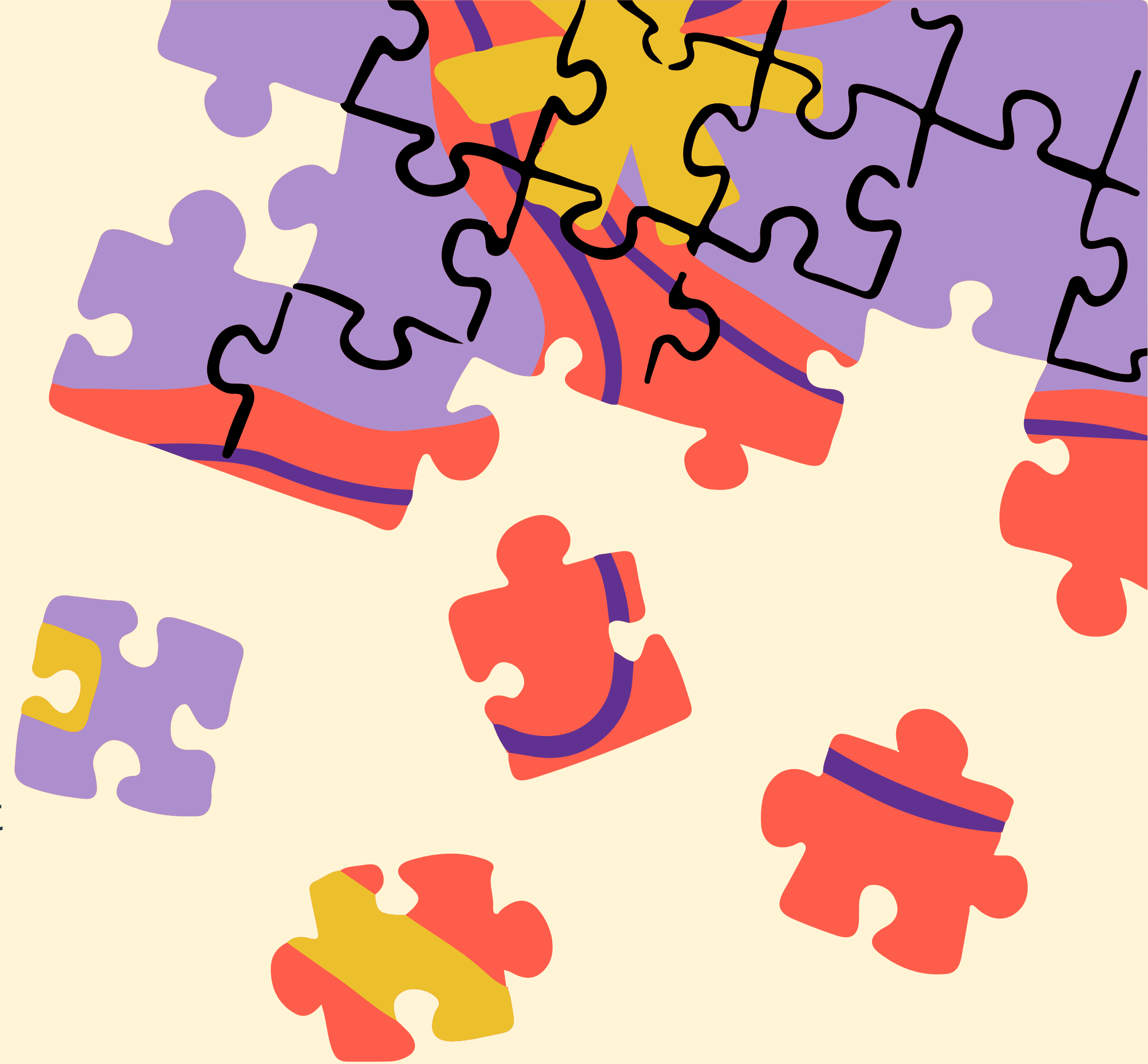
WHO IS THE ANTAGONIST?

The **antagonist** is the force in opposition of the protagonist; this person may not be "bad" or "evil", but opposes the protagonist in a significant way.



PLOT

- **Plot** is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story.
- **Plot** is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows an arrangement of events and actions within a story.

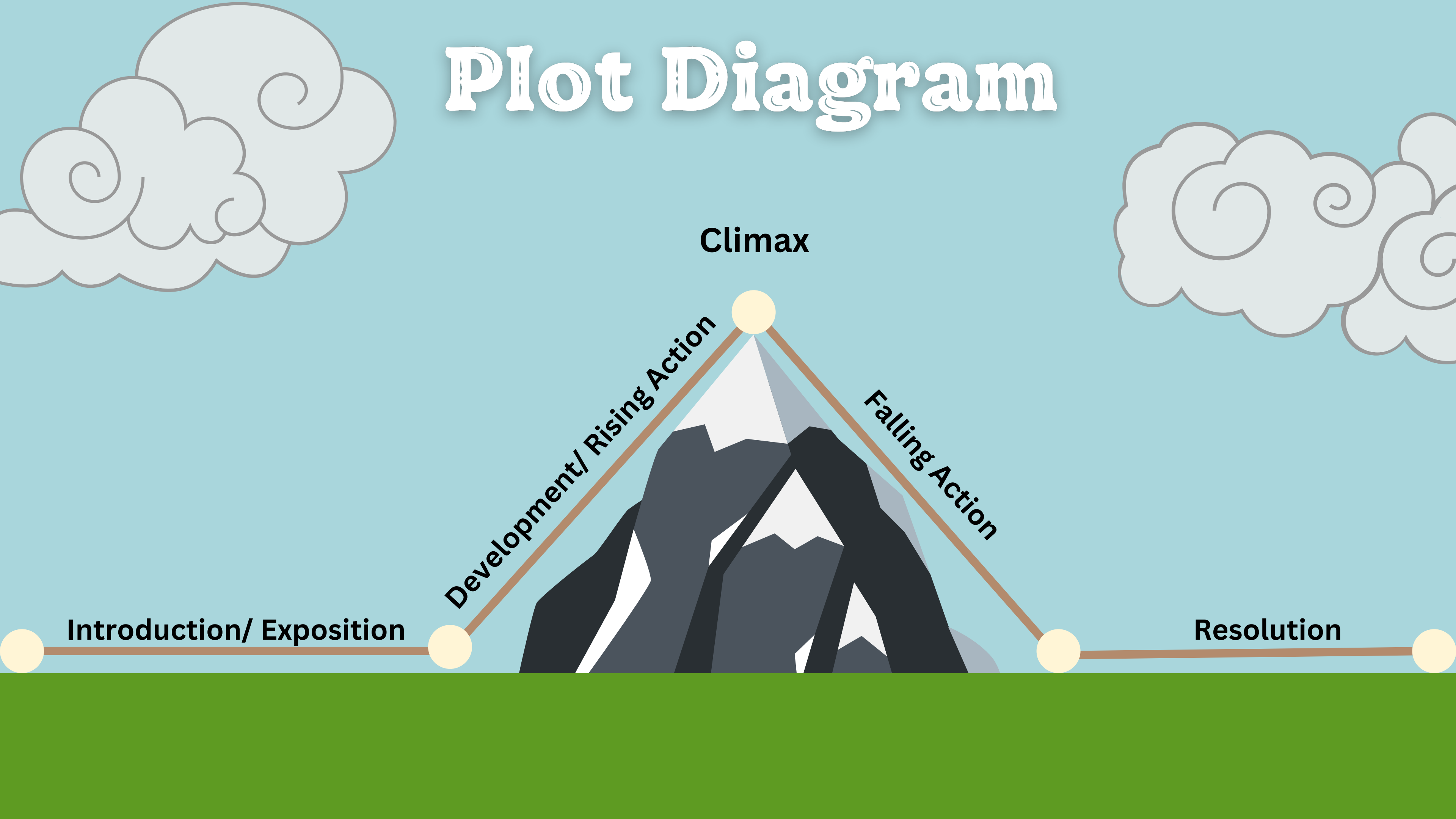




Parts of a Plot

- **Exposition** - introduction; characters, setting and conflict (problem) are introduced.
- **Rising Action** - Events that occur as result of central conflict.
- **Climax** - highest point of interest or suspense of a story.
- **Falling Action** - tension eases; events show the results of how the main character begins to resolve the conflict.
- **Resolution** - loose ends are tied up; the conflict is solved.

Plot Diagram





Rising action within the part of the sort that begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs and leads to the climax.
Complication arise.

Exposition usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).



EXPOSITION

RISING ACTION





CLIMAX

Climax is the turning point of the story usually, the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way. This is the most intense moment.

Falling action is the action that follows the climax and ultimately leads to the resolution.

Resolution is also the conclusion; all loose ends are tied. Either the character defeats the problem, learns to live with the problem, or the problem defeats the character.

RESOLUTION

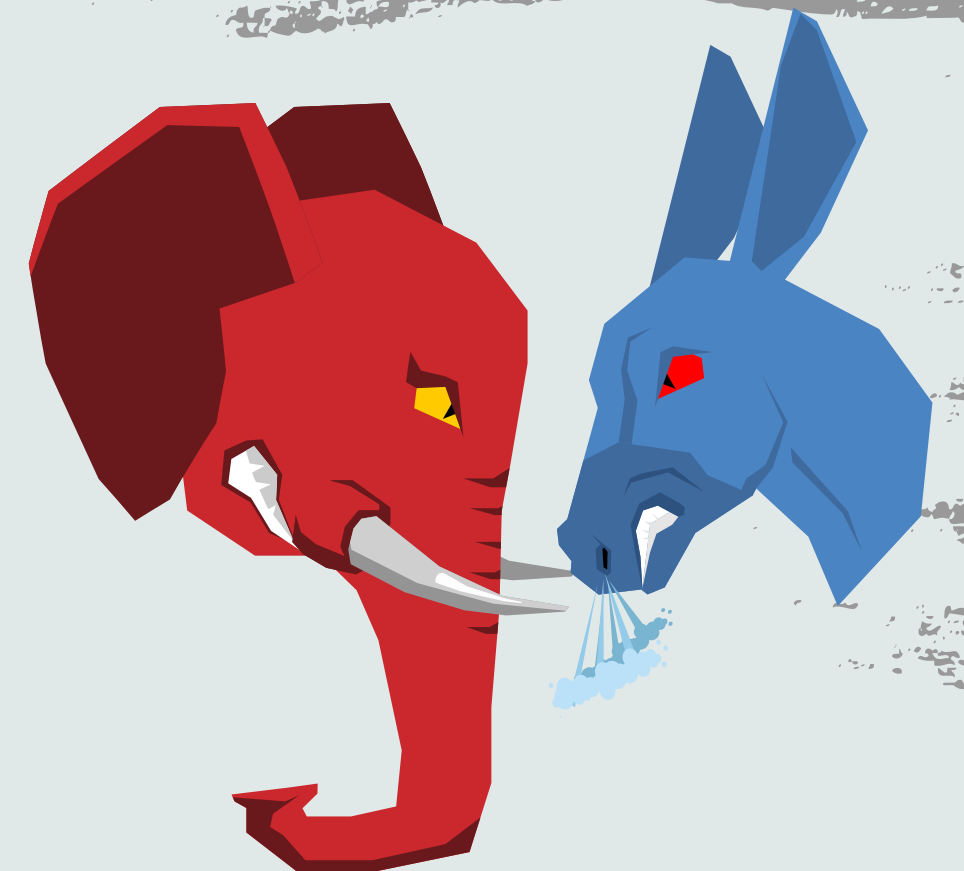
SPECIAL TECHNIQUES USED IN A STORY

- **Suspense** - excitement, tension, curiosity.
- **Foreshadowing** - hint or clue about what will happen in the story.
- **Flashback** - interrupts the normal sequence of events to tell about something that happened in the past.
- **Symbolism** - use of specific objects or images to represent ideas.
- **Personification** - when you make a thing, idea or animal do something only humans do.
- **Surprise Ending** - conclusion that the reader does not expect.



CONFLICT

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.



CONFLICT

- **Conflict** is a problem that must be solved; an issue between the protagonist and antagonist forces. It forms the basis of the plot.
- Conflicts can be external or internal.



★ **External conflict** - outside force may be person, group, animal, nature, or a nonhuman obstacle.

★ **Internal conflict** - takes place in a character's mind.

Types of Conflict

External

Internal



Character vs Character



Character vs Nature



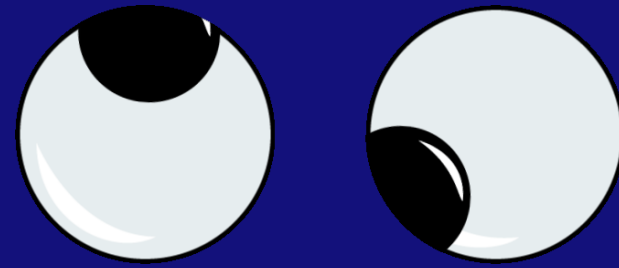
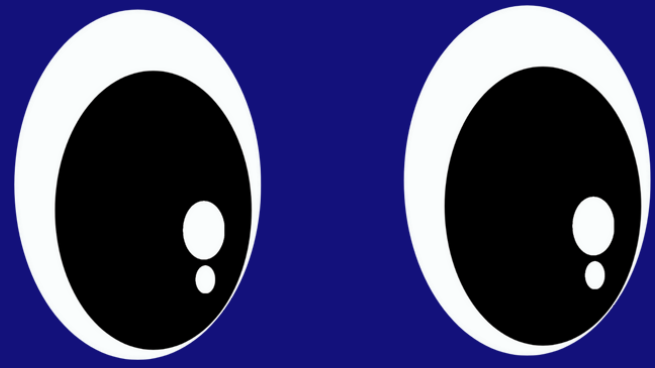
Character vs Society



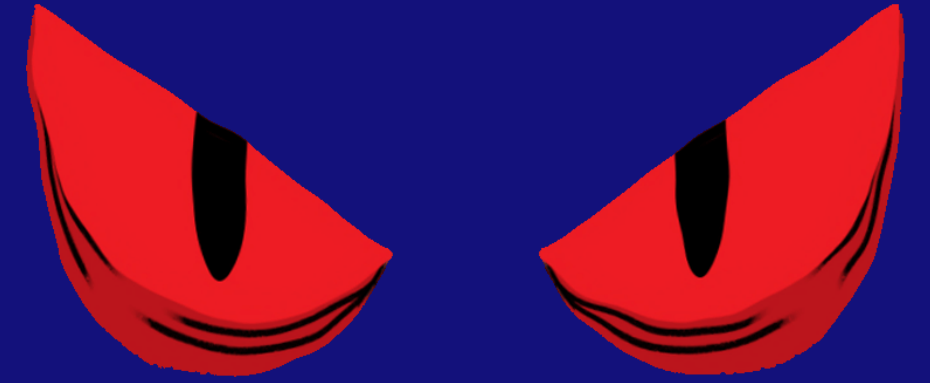
Character vs Fate



Character vs Self

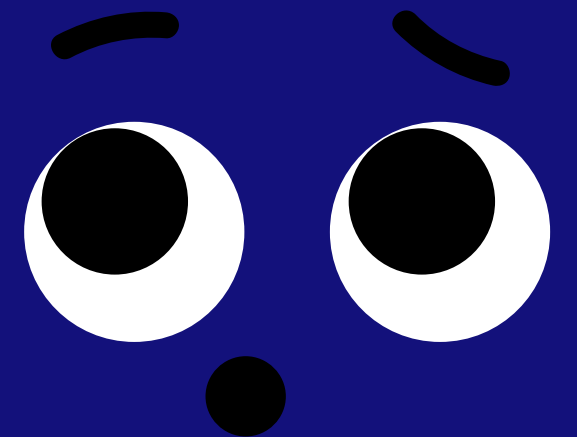
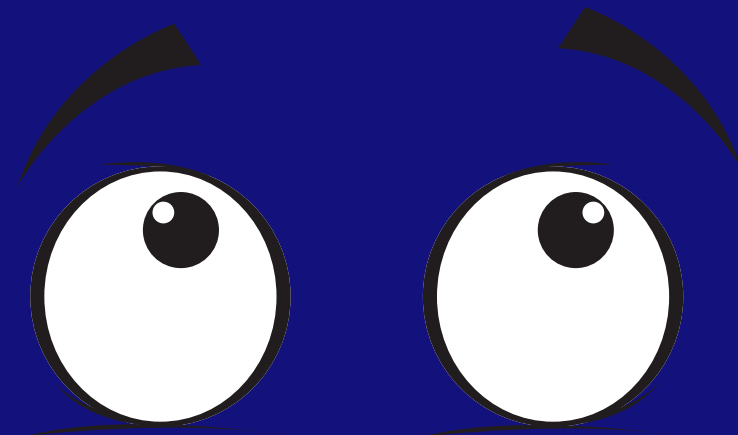
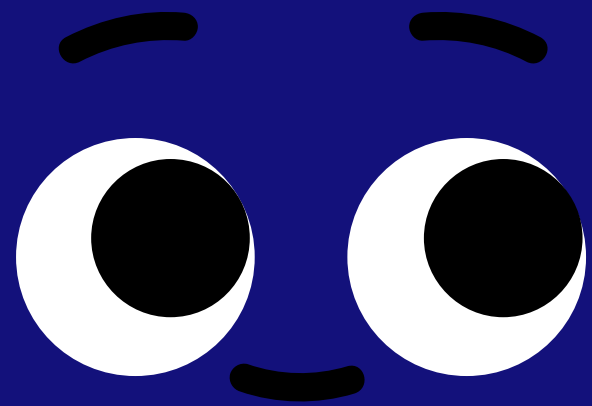


POINT OF VIEW



First Person Point of View - a character from the story is telling the story; uses the pronouns "I" and "me".

Third Person Point of View - an outside narrator is telling the story; uses the pronouns "he", "she", "they".



Types of Third-Person Point of View



Third-Person Limited

The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of only **one** character in a story.



Third-Person Omniscient

The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of **all** characters in a story.

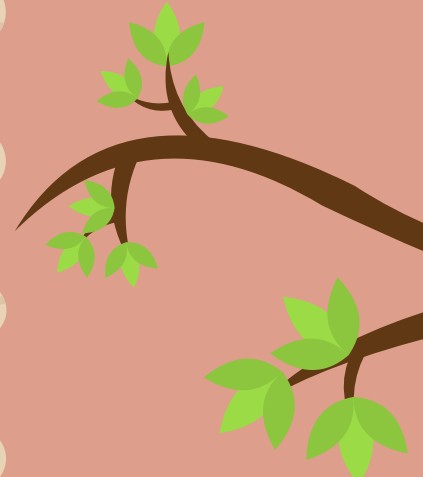


Theme

The **theme** is the central, general message, the main idea, and the controlling topic about life or people the author wants to get across through a literary work.

- To discover the theme of a story, think big. What big message is the author trying to say about the world in which we live?
- What is this story telling me about how life works or how people behave?
 - The practical lesson (**moral**) that we learn from a story after we read it. The lesson that teaches us what to do or how to behave after we have learned something from a story or something that has happened to us.

Example: The lesson or teaching of the story is **be careful whom you trust.**



IMPORTANCE OF THEME IN A STORY

The theme is the **backbone** and the **essence** of the story.

The theme connects the main character's internal journey.


If the reader fails to get the story's plot, they **lose interest**.

Thus it is very important to know the theme of a story.



The importance of **theme** in a story includes:



- A theme gives a story meaning and hence creating an **emotional impact**. A theme creates a difference between a great story that readers can relate to and a mediocre one. The theme adds an in-depth and creates a connection to the story.
- A theme **helps readers to understand the story**. Reading makes the reader understand several aspects of life. All humans whether old or young seek the meaning of life. If your story has a light theme or the theme doesn't resonate, it tends to leave your readers unsatisfied.
-  Theme creates a focused story. Theme acts as a guide to a story.
- Theme is allows writers to express themselves and allows people to relate to common experiences.



Examples of Themes in Literature

There are several themes that are reoccurring in literature, many of which we can identify quickly. But some themes are a little harder to figure out.

Consider these popular general themes in literature to see if any of them might be appearing in something you're reading right now.



Family

Friends



Love

Death



Good vs. Evil