

## The Narrative or Short Story

A narrative is just a story told by a narrator and thus it is sometimes called a narrative instead of a short story, but they mean the same.

*Elements of the Narrative:*

The writer of the narrative uses a pattern in order to weave his/her story and make it interesting for the reader. To create an effective narrative, the writer uses the elements of the narrative wisely. Some of these elements are:

**Setting:** the time and place where the events happen

**Atmosphere:** the feeling that is generated by the surroundings of the place in the story

**Point of View:** the position chosen by the narrator (storyteller) to report about events and characters in a story. When the narrator is telling his/her own thoughts and uses the pronoun "I", then the narration is in the First Person. When the narrator is telling the story through the thoughts of only one character in the story and uses the pronouns "he" or "she", then the narration is in Third Person Limited. Third Person Omniscient point of view is a narrator who can see the inner thoughts and feelings of many characters in the story.

**Plot:** the series of events that take place in a story. These events are patterned to create a conflict or struggle of some kind for the characters in the story.

**Character:** a person in the story. Characters can be flat and static which means they have only one or two character traits and they don't change. Characters can be round and developing which means they have three or more character traits and change during the story.

**Character Trait:** the qualities that a person has which make up his/her personality.

**Theme:** the statement the story makes about some aspect of life that reflects the main idea of the story. The theme is the statement about the meaning or main idea in the story.

## Plot

The plot is the sequence of events that make the story. It is the storyline. It is the series of events or incidents that happen to the main character.

There are seven main points to consider:

1. Introduction: Where the story starts
2. Trigger Incident: The question; event that starts the action
3. Rising Action: Events leading up to the climax
4. Climax: The Answer
5. Falling Action: Events after the climax
6. Conclusion: Ties up all loose ends

