



## Elements of Narrative

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The definitions below give you a brief overview of the elements (parts or characteristics) of narrative writing. Remember that narratives may be fiction (made up) or nonfiction (true stories).

**Setting**—where and when a story takes place.

**Atmosphere**—the general mood or feeling in a story.

**Plot**—the series of events in the story.

### **Conflict**

A struggle between two or more characters or between a character and something external (e.g., the weather). The conflict provides the problem in the story that must be solved before the end.

### **Theme**

The main idea that is the author's purpose in writing the story. Theme is often a lesson about life that is taught or shown through the details in the story.

### **Characters**

The people (and sometimes animals) in a story. The main character in a story is called the protagonist and the person who works against the main character is called the antagonist.

### **Narrator and Point of View**

The narrator is the person who "tells" the story (different from the author, who is the person that writes the story). The narrator tells the story from a particular **point of view**.