

Elements of Fiction

REVIEW

ATMOSPHERE

This is the mood or feeling that the author intends to create through the manipulation of setting, props, lighting, character's behaviours, etc.

It may be romantic, suspenseful, etc

THEME

This is the message the author is trying to convey about society or humanity through his/her text.

We must use the other elements of fiction and literary devices in order to determine the theme.

NARRATIVE VOICE

Definition: This is the way that the author chooses to tell the story. There are four options that we explore in high school.

First person: the narrator is a major character in the story telling the story from his biased perspective. We must ask ourselves if this narrator is reliable. What voices are being left out of the story? How do the answers to these questions affect theme?

NARRATIVE VOICE

Third Person: the narrator is an outside force telling the story using third person pronouns (he, she, they)

Third Person Objective: only the facts are communicated; no thoughts or feelings. Like a news article or a video perspective.

Third Person Limited: the facts about all actions are happening and we are inside the thoughts and feelings of one or a limited number of major characters

Third Person Omniscient: the facts are known along with ALL major characters' thoughts and feelings. Like the voice of God telling the story.

Forrest Gump

- Forrest tells his own story.
- Any reason to doubt his accuracy?



CHARACTERIZATION

Direct Characterization: here the author directly states the traits of a character. There is no need for the reader to make any inferences.

Indirect Characterization: the author leaves hints and clues so that the reader must piece together the clues in order to make inferences about the character's personality and motivations

S	says
T	thinks
E	effects on others (reactions of others)
A	actions
L	looks/appearance

SETTING

Where and when the story takes place. This can effect the theme when we look at the text from a biographical/sociological perspective. This can also help to develop conflicts and influence characterization.

CONFLICTS

- Character vs Character
- Character vs Self
- Character vs Society
- Character vs Nature

KNOWING THE CENTRAL CONFLICT IS ESSENTIAL TO DETERMINING THE THEME.