

# ELEMENTS of FICTION



**Protagonist:** The main character, the one who has problems to solve.

**Setting:** Where and when the story takes place; there can be one or many settings.

**Plot and Rising Action:** The events that the protagonist and other characters live through. The plot rises or becomes more intense as the story nears its end.

**Conflicts:** Disagreements between characters that cause tension.

**Antagonistic Forces:** Forces that work against the protagonist and can cause conflicts and problems. They can be the protagonist's thoughts, decisions, actions, or nature; other characters' actions, words, or decisions; or the setting.

**Other Characters:** There can be as few as one or two in a short story and as many as eight or more in a novel.

**Flat Characters:** Characters who remain unchanged from the beginning to the end of the story.

**Round Characters:** Characters who change as they live through events, make decisions, interact with others, and solve problems.

**Climax:** The high point of the plot or rising action. The climax is close to the end and precedes the resolution to the events.

**Denouement:** A French term used to describe the ending in some short stories. The denouement comes after the climax and can be called the return to normalcy.

**Theme Points:** Big ideas the author conveys through the story about people, family, friendship, courage, fear, and so on.