

Elements of Short Stories Quiz

1. The time and location in which a story takes place is called the _____
2. Certain aspects of this are: Place, _____, weather conditions, social conditions, or mood or atmosphere.
3. The _____ is how the author arranges events to develop his basic idea; It is the sequence of events in a story or play.
4. _____ The beginning of the story where the characters and the setting is revealed.
5. _____ This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed (events between the introduction and climax).
6. _____ This is the highest point of interest and the turning point of the story. The reader wonders what will happen next; will the conflict be resolved or not?
7. _____ The events and complications begin to resolve themselves. The reader knows what has happened next and if the conflict was resolved or not (events between climax and denouement).
8. _____ This is the final outcome or untangling of events in the story.
9. _____ The opposition of forces which ties one incident to another and makes the story move.
10. There are two types of this: _____ - A struggle with a force outside one's self.
11. _____ A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an urge, etc.
12. There are four kinds:
_____ (physical) - The leading character struggles with his physical strength against other men, forces of nature, or animals.
13. _____ (classical) - The leading character struggles against fate, or the circumstances of life facing him/her.
14. _____ (social) - The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.

15. _____ (psychological) - The leading character struggles with himself/herself; with his/her own soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations, choices, etc.
16. One character is clearly central to the story with all major events having some importance to this character - he/she is the _____.
17. The opposer of the main character is called the _____.

Characters are one of three types:

18. _____ round, many sided and complex personalities.
19. _____ dynamic, many sided personalities that change, for better or worse, by the end of the story.
20. _____ Static - Stereotype, have one or two characteristics that never change and are emphasized e.g. brilliant detective, drunk, scrooge, cruel stepmother, etc.
21. _____ is defined as the angle from which the story is told.
22. _____ The story is told through the eyes of a child (his/her judgment being different from that of an adult).
23. _____ - The story is told so that the reader feels as if they are inside the head of one character and knows all their thoughts and reactions.
24. _____ - The story is told by the protagonist or one of the characters who interacts closely with the protagonist or other characters (using pronouns I, me, we, etc). The reader sees the story through this person's eyes as he/she experiences it and only knows what he/she knows or feels.
25. _____ -- The author can narrate the story using the omniscient point of view. He can move from character to character, event to event, having free access to the thoughts, feelings and motivations of his characters and he introduces information where and when he chooses.
26. The _____ in a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the author's underlying meaning or main idea that he is trying to convey