

Glossary

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| action | the events in the novel | device | a literary technique which is used to create a certain effect |
| allegory | the use of events and characters as <i>symbols</i> i.e. to represent ideas and qualities | dramatic | exciting and impressive |
| antagonist | a character who blocks the progress of the <i>main character</i> | explore | to describe and discuss |
| author | the person who wrote the novel | external conflict | see <i>conflict</i> |
| cast | a cast is the group of people who act together in a theatre play. <i>Cast</i> is often used to describe the group of characters in a novel too. | figures of speech | expressions which are used to add detail to a description through comparison (see <i>simile</i> and <i>metaphor</i>) |
| central features | (see also <i>physical features</i>) the most important details about a person's body or face | filter (v) | to describe the facts from a certain <i>point of view</i> . |
| central theme | see <i>theme</i> | first person | using the pronouns <i>I</i> and <i>me</i> |
| characters | the people in a novel | first person narrator | see <i>narrator</i> |
| main/key characters | the most important people in the novel | flashback | a device used to describe an event that happened before the main story |
| minor characters | characters who are not described in detail | flashforward | a device used to describe an event that will happen in the future |
| characterisation | how the novelist describes the characters | genre | a particular style or type of novel |
| chronologically | in the order they happened | heroine | a woman who is the most important person in the novel |
| colour (v) | to influence a description | hero | a man who is the most important person in the novel |
| common themes | see <i>theme</i> | imagery | the use of the five senses in describing a scene |
| complex | not following a simple, straight line | internal conflict | see <i>conflict</i> |
| conflict | a problem that faces the main character/s | irony | a device that shows the contrast between reality and appearance |
| external conflict | a problem which involves the character and someone or something else | key events | the most important events |
| internal conflict | a problem that is a part of the character's personality | limited third person narrator | see <i>narrator</i> |
| counterpart | a character who has a similar and an equally important role | linear | in a straight line, starting at the beginning and working through the events in sequence |
| develop | used to describe progress in the <i>plot</i> , in the description of a <i>character</i> or in the exploration of a <i>theme</i> . | main plot | see <i>plot</i> |

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| main characters | see <i>characters</i> | | told at the same time as the main plot |
| mechanics | the mechanics of the plot are the small details of the events and actions | point of view | the position from which a story is told, the 'eyes' through which we see and understand the story |
| metaphor | an expression which describes one thing as if it was another thing (i.e. he was a hungry wolf) see also <i>simile</i> | protagonist | see <i>main character</i> |
| minor characters | see <i>characters</i> | psychological development | the way a character's personality changes |
| motivation | the reason why someone does something | race ahead | move forward very quickly. |
| narrator | the person who tells the story | realistic | describing things as they are in real life |
| third person narrator | a narrator who sees the story from outside and who can see into the minds and hearts of all the characters, as well as see all the action that takes place | recurring themes | see <i>theme</i> |
| first person narrator | a narrator who tells the story in the first person i.e. using <i>I</i> and <i>me</i> not <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> , to talk about the main character. | reliable | someone you can trust |
| limited third person narrator | a narrator who uses the third person, <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> to talk about the main character, but whose view of the action and the other people involved in the plot is limited to the main character. | resolution | the end of a conflict (see <i>conflict</i>), often comes at the end of the novel retell to tell a story another person has told you |
| third person narrator | a narrator who speaks in the third person using <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> or <i>they</i> to talk about all the characters. | reverse chronology | starting at the end and going backwards in time |
| pace | the speed at which the story is told | saga | a story told about two or more generations of the same family |
| personality traits | details about a person's personality eg, proud, intelligent, silly, obsessed by revenge. | satire | a style which criticises a person, event or part of society by making it look funny or stupid |
| physical features | details about a person's body and face, for example, dark hair, blue eyes, a scar on his face or a wooden leg. | shift (n) | a change in <i>style</i> or in <i>pace</i> |
| plot | the story told by the novel | simile | an expression which describes someone or something by comparing it to someone or something else using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> (eg, <i>he was as hungry as a wolf</i>) |
| main plot | the most important story told in the novel | story-teller | a person who tells a story |
| sub plots | stories in the novel that are | style | the way the novel is written |
| | | sub plots | see <i>plot</i> |
| | | symbol | a person or an object that represents a particular quality or idea |
| | | symbolise | to be a symbol of something |
| | | symbolism | the use of <i>symbols</i> |
| | | theme | a topic that is discussed in literature |
| | | central theme | the most important theme |

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|------------------------------|---|
| common themes | themes that are often discussed in literature |
| recurring themes | themes that are repeatedly discussed by the same novelist |
| third person narrator | see <i>narrator</i> |
| timeframe | the length of time the story takes |
| two-dimensional | not described in detail |
| vivid | very clear and detailed |