**Fiction**

Etymologically the word *fiction* has been derived from Latin word “*fictus*,”which means “to form”. In literature, fiction is defined as “literature in the form of [prose](https://literarydevices.net/prose/), which describes imaginary events and people.” This particular branch of literature consists of stories, novels, novellas, screen-plays and dramas based on made-up and fabricated stories and characters. Fiction contains certain symbolic and thematic features known as “literary merits.” In other words, fiction narrates a story, which aims at something bigger than merely a story. Famous examples of fiction in literature are: Alice in wonderland, Hamelt, pride and prejudice..etc

# Types of fiction :

* **Short stories :** a fictional narrative and an account of incidents or events, shorter than a novel. Example of stories: Little red riding hood, Beauty and the beast..etc
* **Novels:** An invented narrative that is usually long and complex and is expressed through a sequence of events, typically written in prose and published as a book. Example of novels: To kill a Mockingbird, The Great Gatsby..etc
* **Novella:** A long short story or a short novel. Example of Novella : Breakfast at Tiffanys’, The Old Man and the Sea..etc
* **Screen-plays:** A script of a film, TV show, video game.. etc including instructions and scene directions that is written by a screenwriter. These screenplays can be original works or adapted from pieces of writing.
* **Drama:** A specific mode of fiction represented in performance: a play, opera, mime, ballet..etc performed in a theater or on Television. Example of drama: Romeo and Juliet.

**Elements of fiction:**

The six major elements of fiction are character, plot, point of view, setting, style, and theme.

1. **Character**

Characters are the figures in the story. Readers come to know the characters through what they say, what they think, and how they act.

E. M. Forster, an English novelist, identified that characters are either flat or round. Flat characters do not play important roles in the stories. They often have only one or two traits with little description about them. The round characters play an important role, often the lead roles in stories. They are complex, dimensional, and well-developed. The stories are about them; therefore, pages of writing will be about them. They often change by going through a life-changing experience as the story unfolds.

1. **Setting**

Setting is where and when the story takes place. Which provides the general background for the characters and plot of a literary work.

1. **Plot**

Plot is the order of events in the story. The plot usually follows a particular structure called Freytag’s Pyramid. It has five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement, also known as resolution.



Freytag’s Pyramid by Gustav Freytag, a German playwright

Exposition is an introduction to the characters, time, and the problem. At the point where exposition moves into rising action a problem, sometimes called an inciting incident, occurs for the main character to handle or solve. This creates the beginning of the story. Rising action includes the events that the main character encounters. Climax is the turning point in the story. Usually, it is a single event with the greatest intensity and uncertainty. Falling action includes the events that unfold after the climax. This usually creates an emotional response from the reader. Denouement or resolution provides closure to the story. It ties up loose ends in the story.

# Conflict

Conflict is the struggle between two entities. In story writing the main character, also known as the protagonist, encounters a conflict with the antagonist, which is an adversary. The conflict may be one of six kinds :

* Character vs. character
* Character vs. nature or natural forces
* Character vs. society or culture
* Character vs. machine or technology
* Character vs. God
* Character vs himself or herself

# Point of View

Stories are generally told in one of two points of views :

* First-person point of view
* Third-person point of view

First-person point of view means that one of the characters in the story will narrate–give an account–of the story. The narrator may be the protagonist, the main character. Writing in first-person point of view brings the readers closer to the story. They can read it as if they are the character because personal pronouns like *I, me, my, we,* us, and *our* are used.

Third-person point of view means that the narrator is not in the story. The third- person narrator is not a character. Third-person point of view can be done two ways:

* Third-person limited
* Third-person omniscient

Third-person limited means that the narrator limits him/herself by being able to be in one character’s thoughts. Whereas, third-person omniscient means the narrator has unlimited ability to be in various character’s thoughts. Writing in third-person point of view removes readers from the story because of the pronouns *he, she, it, him, her, his, hers, they, them*, and *theirs*.

# Theme

A theme is not the plot of the story. It is the underlying truth that is being conveyed in the story. Themes can be universal, meaning they are understood by readers no matter what culture or country the readers are in. Common themes include coming of age, circle of life, prejudice, greed, good vs. evil, beating the odds, etc