

Elements of Narrative Text

(Vaughn Gross Center for Reading & Language – pg. 315)

Elements of Narrative Text				
Examples	Fiction Autobiographies Legends	Historical Fiction Biographies Folktales	Science Fiction Fantasies Myths	Plays Mysteries
Purpose	To entertain or inform			
Characteristics	Follow a familiar story structure Beginning: Introduction of setting, characters, background information, and conflict Middle: Progression of plot, which includes rising actions, climax, and falling action End: Resolution or solution to the problem			
Narrative Terms (student-friendly definition)	Exposition	Introduction of setting, characters, background information, and conflict		
	Setting	Time and place		
	Characters	People, animals, or other entities in the text		
	Conflict	Problem		
	Interval Conflict	A character's struggle within himself/herself		
	External conflict	A character's struggle with another character		
	Rising Action	Events leading up to the climax; trying to solve the problem		
	Climax	Emotional high point of the story; conflict is addressed		
	Falling Action	Consequences or events caused by the climax		
	Resolution	Final outcome		