



**Introduction to Literature**

**By Thanyanun Chatteerachote**

# 5 Short Story Elements

**Setting**

**Characters**

**Point of View**

**Theme**

**Plot**

# Setting

The time and place in which a story happens.

Cinderella

The story takes place  
a long time ago in  
a land ruled by a king  
and a queen.

Little Red Riding Hood

The story takes place  
a long time ago in  
the middle of a thick  
forest stood a small  
cottage.

# Characters

**The actors in a story's plot.**

- The protagonist is the main character.
- The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.

Cinderella

**Cinderella,**  
**the stepsisters,**  
**the stepmother,**  
**the fairy god,**  
**the prince**

Little Red Riding Hood

**Little Red Riding Hood,**  
**the wolf,**  
**her mother,**  
**her grandmother,**  
**the hunter**

# Point of View

**The vantage point from which a story is told.**

➤ First-person point of view

The narrator uses “I” and “me” to tell the story.

➤ Third-person point of view

The narrator describes the characters and action from outside the story

☐ *A third-person omniscient narrator*

*The narrator knows everything that goes on.*

☐ *A third-person limited narrator*

*The narrator describes events as one character sees them.*

# Point of View

**The Vantage point from which a story is told.**

☐ *A third-person omniscient narrator*

*The narrator knows everything that goes on.*

☐ *A third-person limited narrator*

*The narrator describes events as one character sees them.*

*(Harry Potter)*

Cinderella

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**

Little Red Riding Hood

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**

# Theme

The central message of a story that readers can apply to life.

➤ Stated themes are directly presented in a story.

➤ Implied themes must be inferred.

*Readers need to consider all the elements of a story and ask what message about life they convey.*

Cinderella

**Implied theme**

You should make the best of any situation and things will work out in the end.

Little Red Riding Hood

**Implied theme**

You should listen to what your parents tell you and not to talk to strangers

# Plot

**The sequence of events in a story.**

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

➤ An external conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force.

➤ An internal conflict takes place within the mind of a character who struggles with opposing feeling or with indecision about how to act.



# Plot

The sequence of events in a story.

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

## Cinderella

Problem: Cinderella wants to go to the ball, but her stepsisters prevent her from going.

Conflict: The conflict is external – Cinderella versus the stepsisters and their mother.

## Little Red Riding Hood

Problem: Little Red Riding Hood takes the basket of cakes to her grandmother.

Conflict: The conflict is external – Little Red Riding Hood versus the wolf.

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

Exposition introduces the story's characters, setting, and conflict.

Rising Action develops the conflict with complications and twists.

Climax is the emotional high point of the story.

Falling Action shows what happens to the characters after the climax.

Resolution shows how the conflict is resolved or how the problem is solved

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

Cinderella

Exposition: Cinderella lives with her stepsisters and their mother. They make her wage rags and do all the hard work.

Rising Action: An invitation to a ball at the palace arrives. The ministers tried the slipper on the foot of every girl in the land.

Climax: The stepsisters try to force their feet into the slipper. It fits Cinderella.

Falling Action: Cinderella and the prince marry.

Resolution: They love happily ever after.

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

Little Red  
Riding Hood

Exposition: Little Red Riding Hood lives with her mother in a small cottage. Her grandmother is ill. Her mother lets her take the basket of cakes to her grandmother.

Rising Action: Little Red Riding Hood was soon to forget her mother's wise words. – The wolf swallowed up Little Red Riding Hood and fell fast asleep.

Climax: The hunter loaded his gun, opened the window, pointed the barrel straight at the wolf's head, and shot the wolf.

Falling Action: Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood were safe and unharmed.

Resolution: Little Red Riding Hood and her mother set off towards the wood to go back home.



**The Three Little Pigs**

**Romeo & Juliet**

# Setting

The time and place in which a story happens.

## The Three Little Pigs

The story takes place a long time ago in countryside.

## Romeo & Juliet

The play is set in the 13th or 14th century in Italy in Verona and Mantua. Much of the action takes place in Juliet's house. Two cities of Venice are also mentioned in the play. The Capulets and the Montagues, the main families of the play, are from noble lineage and wealth; they dress well, live in fancy surroundings, and are served by many attendants. The play's basic setting, therefore, is rich and elegant. (4 days)

# Characters

**The actors in a story's plot.**

- The protagonist is the main character.
- The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.

**The Three Little Pigs**

**The three little pigs  
(the third little pig),  
the wolf,  
the mother pig,  
the three men**

**Romeo & Juliet**

**Romeo, Juliet**, Friar Lawrence, Nurse,  
The Montagues, The Capulets, Escalus,  
Paris, Benvolio, Mercutio, Tybalt,  
Friar John, Lady Capulet,  
Lady Montague, Balthazar,  
Samson and Gregory, Peter, Abraham

# Point of View

**The Vantage point from which a story is told.**

*A third-person omniscient narrator*

*The narrator knows everything that goes on.*

*A third-person limited narrator*

*The narrator describes events as one character sees them.*

*(Harry Potter)*

**The Three Little Pigs**

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**

**Romeo & Juliet**

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**



# Theme

The central message of a story that readers can apply to life.

➤ Stated themes are directly presented in a story.

➤ Implied themes must be inferred.

*Readers need to consider all the elements of a story and ask what message about life they convey.*

The Three Little Pigs

**Implied theme**

Hard work and patience pays off in the end.

Romeo & Juliet

**Implied theme**

It describes the battle of love and hate, in which battle love is victorious.

# Plot

The sequence of events in a story.

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

## The Three Little Pigs

Problem: The three little pigs must go and build houses for themselves.

Conflict: The conflict is external – The three little pigs versus the wolf.

## Romeo & Juliet

Problem: Romeo falls in love with Juliet, his family's enemy.

Conflict: The conflict is external – The Montagues versus The Capulets,

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

The Three  
Little Pigs

Exposition: There was a mother pig who had three little pigs. The three little pigs grow so big that their mother let them go and build houses for themselves.

Rising Action: The three little pigs set off. The wolf heard the third little pig said and was very angry indeed.

Climax: The wolf climbed on the roof and began to come down the chimney to eat the third little pig.

Falling Action: The third little pig took off the lid from the pot. The wolf fell into the pot.

Resolution: The third little pig was too clever.

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

Romeo &  
Juliet

Exposition: In the streets of Verona another brawl breaks out between the servants of the feuding noble families of Capulet and Montague.

Rising Action: Romeo goes to the Capulet feast. – Romeo learns only of Juliet's death and decides to kill himself.

Climax: Romeo enters the tomb, sees Juliet's inanimate body, drinks the poison, and dies by her side. At the same time, Juliet awakes.

Falling Action: Juliet sees Romeo and realizes he has killed himself with poison. She kisses his poisoned lips and when that does not kill her, buries his dagger in her chest, falling dead upon his body.

Resolution: Capulet and Montague agree to end their long-standing feud.



**William Shakespeare**

**(1564-1616)**

"THERE IS  
NOTHING EITHER  
GOOD OR BAD,  
BUT THINKING  
MAKES IT SO."



~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

www.memorymuseum.net

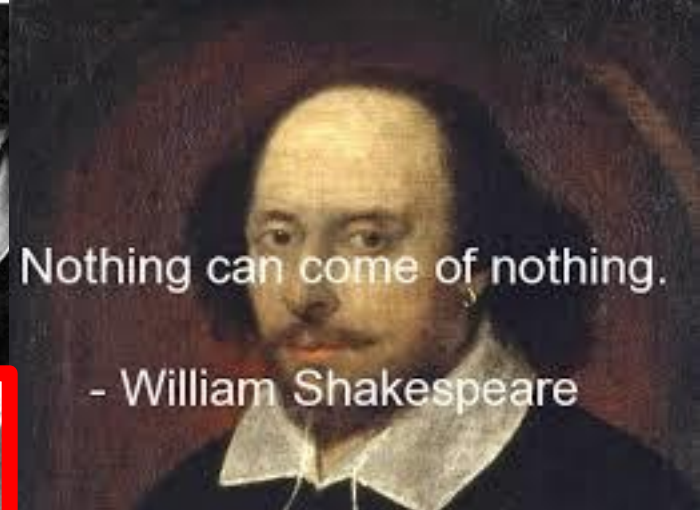
"Words are easy,  
like the wind;  
Faithful friends  
are hard to find."

~ William Shakespeare



Nothing can come of nothing.

- William Shakespeare

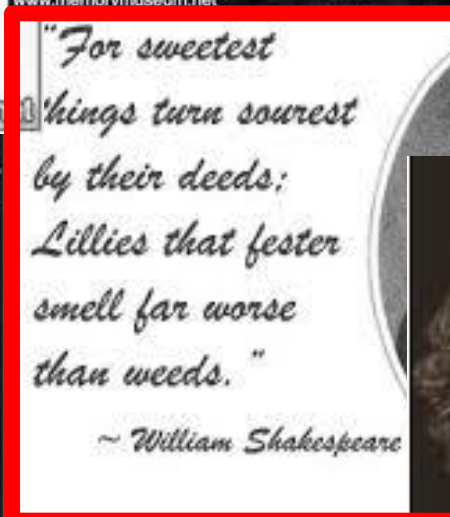


*"It is not in the stars  
to hold our destiny  
but in ourselves."*

~ William Shakespeare

*"For sweetest  
things turn sourest  
by their deeds;  
Lillies that fester  
smell far worse  
than weeds."*

~ William Shakespeare



"If to do were as  
easy as to know  
what were good to  
do, chapels had  
been churches, and  
poor men's cottage  
princes' palaces."

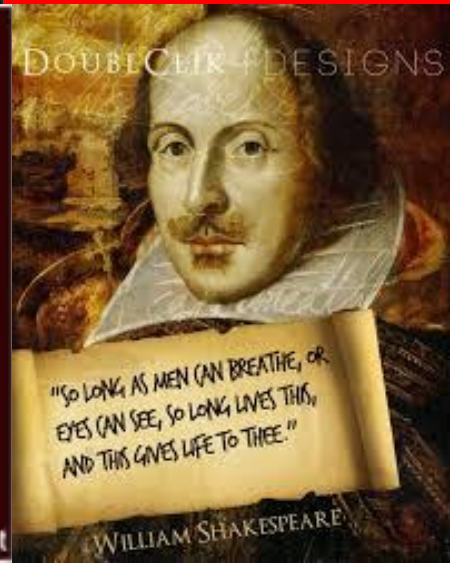
William Shakespeare



*"Be not afraid of  
greatness. Some are  
born great, some achieve  
greatness, and others  
have greatness thrust  
upon them."*

~ William Shakespeare

www.memorymuseum.net

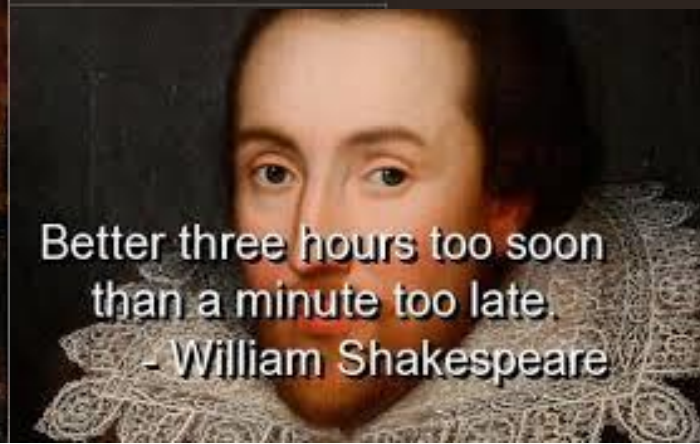


"SO LONG AS MEN CAN BREATHE, OR  
EYES CAN SEE, SO LONG LIVES THIS,  
AND THIS GIVES LIFE TO THREE"

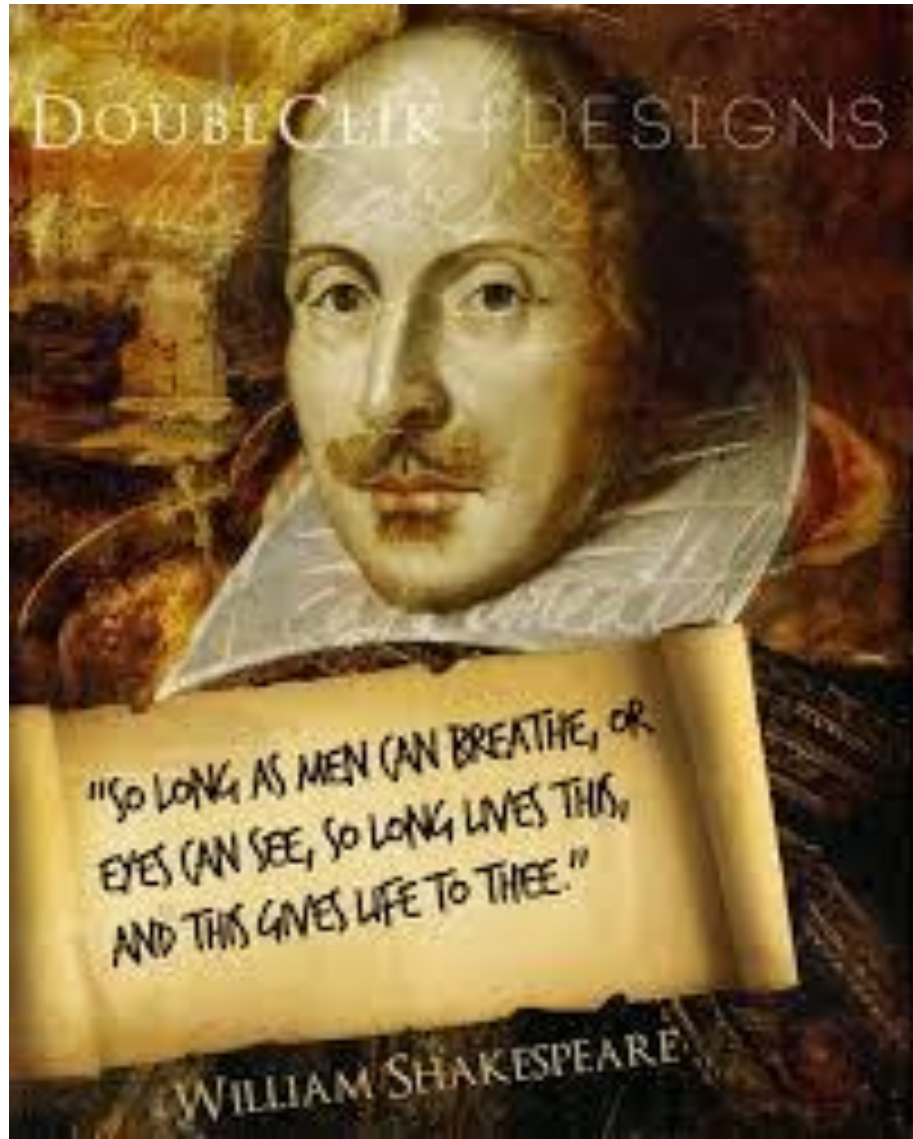
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Better three hours too soon  
than a minute too late.

- William Shakespeare



DOUBLECLIP + DESIGNS



"SO LONG AS MEN CAN BREATHE, OR  
EYES CAN SEE, SO LONG LIVES THIS,  
AND THIS GIVES LIFE TO THEE."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



**King Lear**

**William Shakespeare**

**(1605)**



# Active Reading Strategies

**Predict**

**Connect**

**Question**

**Visualize**

**Evaluate**

**Review**

**Respond**

# Active Reading Strategies

**Pre-reading : Predict**

**While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review**

**Post reading : Respond**

# Predict

*King Lear*

Anticipate, Stay alert, Guess:

What will happen next by combining clues in the story with what you already know.

Say to yourself...

- From the title, I'd guess this story is about...
- This character will probably...
- The next thing that has to happen is...
- The story is different from my original prediction.

# Vocabulary

King Lear

Flatter (n) praise too much/insincerely

Rage (n) furious, anger, violence

Court (v) try to win/obtain  
support/approval

Accompany (v) go with

Swiftly (adj) quickly

Undermine (v) weaken gradually

Wander (v) go from place to place  
without any special plan

Heath (n) area of flat waste land

Disguise (v) change the appearance

Flee (v) run or hurry away from

Treason (n) disloyalty

Invasion (n) entering (a country) with  
armed forces in order to attack

Entangle (v) catch in a net or among  
obstacles

Conspire (v) make secret plans with others  
(to do wrong)

Defeat (v) overcome, beat, win a victory  
over

Climatic (adj) under weather conditions  
of a place

Execution (n) legal putting to death

# Expression

King Lear

Pull the **strange trick** of leading him off **an imaginary cliff**

(pulling someone off the cliff =

to stop someone from committing suicide or hurting oneself)

# Active Reading Strategies

Pre-reading : Predict

While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review

Post reading : Respond

# Connect

*King Lear*

Draw parallels between the people, places, events in the story and the people, events, places in your own life.

Ask to yourself...

- How would I act in the main character's situation?
- When have I felt the same way as this character?
- What parts of my life does this remind me of?
- What other stories does this remind me of?

# Question

*King Lear*

Ask yourself to clarify the story as you go along.

Ask to yourself...

- What's going on here?
- Why did he or she say that?
- What does this mean? Do I understand what I've just read?
- What might my teacher want me to notice about this story?



# Visualize

*King Lear*

Form pictures of what is happening in the story  
in your mind.

Pay attention to the details the writer gives you, and  
make them a part of your reading experience.

Ask to yourself...

- How does this scene/character/object look?
- Who is in this scene?
- Where are the characters in relation to one another  
and to their surrounding?

# Evaluate

*King Lear*

Form opinion and make judgments about the story while you are reading. (not after you've finished)

Ask to yourself...

- Does this turn of events make sense?
- How would I judge this character's thoughts and actions?
- What is particularly effective about this writer's style?

# Review

*King Lear*

Pause from time to time to think about your reading.

Summarize events or rephrase difficult language to help you understand and remember what you've read.

Say to yourself...

➤ So far, ...

➤ In other words, ....

# Active Reading Strategies

Pre-reading : Predict

While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review

Post reading : Respond

# Respond

*King Lear*

Respond while you are reading.  
What are your immediate reactions?

Say to yourself...

- I like this, because...
- I'd like to ask the writer why ...
- I think this character is ...
- I wish I could see this place because ...
- That was surprising!

# 5 Short Story Elements

Setting

Characters

Point of View

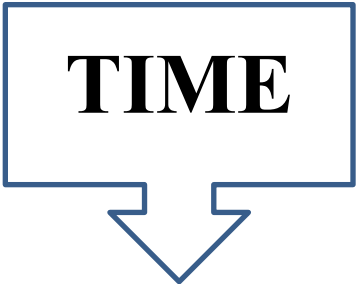
Theme

Plot

# Setting

*King Lear*

The time and place in which a story happens.



The eight century b.c.



Britain, France

# Characters

*King Lear*

The actors in a story's plot.

➤ The protagonist is the main character.

➤ The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.

Protagonist

King Lear

Antagonist

Goneril and Regan, his older daughters, Edmund



# Characters

*King Lear*

**The actors in a story's plot.**

➤ **The protagonist is the main character.**

➤ **The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.**

**Cordelia,  
Gloucester, Edgar, Edmund,  
Kent, Albany, Cornwall, Fool, Oswald**

# Point of View

*King Lear*

**The Vantage point from which a story is told.**

*A third-person omniscient narrator*

*The narrator knows everything that goes on.*

*A third-person limited narrator*

*The narrator describes events as one character sees them.*

*(Harry Potter)*

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**

# Theme

**King Lear**

The central message of a story that readers can apply to life.

➤ Stated themes are directly presented in a story.

➤ Implied themes must be inferred.

*Readers need to consider all the elements of a story and ask what message about life they convey.*

Implied theme

Justice

Authority vs Chaos

Reconciliation

**NEW!**

## Motif (s)

*King Lear*

A significant word, description, idea, or image  
That is repeated throughout a literary work and  
is related to its theme.

**(Recurring words, descriptions, ideas, or images)**

**Madness**

**Betrayal**

**NEW!**

# Symbols

*King Lear*

**Any object, person, place, or experience  
that means more than what it is.**

**Symbolism is the use of images to represent internal realities.**

**The storm**

**Blindness**

# Plot

**King Lear**

The sequence of events in a story.

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

**Problem**



Lear decides to step down from the throne and divide his kingdom evenly among his three daughters

**Conflict**



Lear and two older daughters

# Plot

**King Lear**

The sequence of events in a story.

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

**Problem**



Gloucester's illegitimate son tricks him into believing that his legitimate son is trying to kill him

**Conflict**



Gloucester, Edgar, Edmund

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

## King Lear

Exposition: Lear decides to step down from the throne and divide his kingdom evenly among Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia.

Rising Action: Lear puts his daughters through a test. – The English troops reach Dover.

Climax: Edgar duels with and kills Edmund.

Falling Action: Death of Gloucester, Goneril poisons Regan and kills herself, Cordelia and Lear die.

Resolution: Albany, Edgar, Kent are left to take care of the country under a cloud of sorrow and regret.





**Happy Man's Shirt**

**Italo Calvino**

# Active Reading Strategies

**Predict**

**Connect**

**Question**

**Visualize**

**Evaluate**

**Review**

**Respond**

# Active Reading Strategies

**Pre-reading : Predict**

**While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review**

**Post reading : Respond**

# Predict

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Anticipate, Stay alert, Guess:

What will happen next by combining clues in the story with what you already know.

Say to yourself...

- From the title, I'd guess this story is about...
- This character will probably...
- The next thing that has to happen is...
- The story is different from my original prediction.

# Vocabulary

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Hue (n)

Peasant (adj)

Decree (n)

Drain (v)

Slew(n)

Scamper (v)

Refrain (n)

Obliged (adj)

Retinue (n)

Content (adj)

**Expression**

*King Lear*

**Thought of the world**

**Through and through**

# Active Reading Strategies

Pre-reading : Predict

While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review

Post reading : Respond

# Connect

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Draw parallels between the people, places, events in the story and the people, events, places in your own life.

Ask to yourself...

- How would I act in the main character's situation?
- When have I felt the same way as this character?
- What parts of my life does this remind me of?
- What other stories does this remind me of?



# Question

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Ask yourself to clarify the story as you go along.

Ask to yourself...

- What's going on here?
- Why did he or she say that?
- What does this mean? Do I understand what I've just read?
- What might my teacher want me to notice about this story?

# Visualize

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Form pictures of what is happening in the story  
in your mind.

Pay attention to the details the writer gives you, and  
make them a part of your reading experience.

Ask to yourself...

- How does this scene/character/object look?
- Who is in this scene?
- Where are the characters in relation to one another  
and to their surrounding?

# Evaluate

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Form opinion and make judgments about the story while you are reading. (not after you've finished)

Ask to yourself...

- Does this turn of events make sense?
- How would I judge this character's thoughts and actions?
- What is particularly effective about this writer's style?

# Review

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Pause from time to time to think about your reading.

Summarize events or rephrase difficult language to help you understand and remember what you've read.

Say to yourself...

➤ So far, ...

➤ In other words, ....

# Active Reading Strategies

Pre-reading : Predict

While reading : Connect, Question,  
Visualize, Evaluate, Review

Post reading : Respond

# Respond

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Respond while you are reading.

What are your immediate reactions?

Say to yourself...

- I like this, because...
- I'd like to ask the writer why ...
- I think this character is ...
- I wish I could see this place because ...
- That was surprising!

# 5 Short Story Elements

Setting

Characters

Point of View

Theme

Plot

# Setting

*Happy Man's Shirt*

The time and place in which a story happens.

TIME



A time long ago

PLACE



Italy



# Characters

*Happy Man's Shirt*

**The actors in a story's plot.**

➤ The protagonist is the main character.

➤ The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.

**Protagonist**

**The prince**

**Antagonist**

**none**

# Characters

*Happy Man's Shirt*

**The actors in a story's plot.**

➤ **The protagonist is the main character.**

➤ **The antagonist is the person in conflict with the main character.**

**King, prince, philosophers ,doctors, professors,  
Ambassadors, King's retinue, a priest,  
a neighboring king, his wife, his children,  
A hare, a happy man**

# Point of View

Happy Man's Shirt

**The Vantage point from which a story is told.**

☐ *A third-person omniscient narrator*

*The narrator knows everything that goes on.*

☐ *A third-person limited narrator*

*The narrator describes events as one character sees them.*

*(Harry Potter)*

**The third-person  
omniscient  
point of view**

# Theme

Happy Man's Shirt

The central message of a story that readers can apply to life.

➤ Stated themes are directly presented in a story.

➤ Implied themes must be inferred.

*Readers need to consider all the elements of a story and ask what message about life they convey.*

Implied theme

Happiness

# Plot

*Happy Man's Shirt*

The sequence of events in a story.

*Most plots deal with a problem and develop around a conflict.*

**Problem**



**The prince was always unhappy.**

**Conflict**



**Look for a happy man**

**NEW!**

# Symbols

*Happy Man's Shirt*

**Any object, person, place, or experience  
that means more than what it is.**

**Symbolism is the use of images to represent internal realities.**

**Singing a song**

# Most plots develop in 5 stages.

*Happy Man's Shirt*

Exposition: A king had an only son who was always unhappy.

Rising Action: The king issued a decree. – The son led him into a vineyard where he found a young man singing and pruning the vines.

Climax: The king grabbed him and started unbuttoning the youth's jacket.

Falling Action: All of a sudden he stopped, and his arms fell to his sides

Resolution: The happy man wore no shirt.



**Thank you for your attention**

**By Thanyanun Chatteerachote**