

## SHORT STORIES: LITERARY TERMS

- **Antagonist** - A character (or thing) that is the source of conflict in a literary work
- **Characterization** - The way the author develops the personalities of the characters
- **Climax** - The “turning point” of the literary work
- **Conflict** - A struggle between two or more forces (ex. Man vs. Nature)
- **Dialogue** - Direct speech between characters
- **Diction** - Word choice to create a specific effect
- **Exposition** - The background information given at the beginning
- **Falling Action** - The result or effects of the climax
- **Flashback** - Returning to an earlier time in order to clarify meaning in the present time
- **Foreshadowing** - Hinting at what is to come
- **Genre** - Type or category in which a literary work belongs
- **Imagery** - Description evoking the use of the five senses
- **Irony** - When something unexpected happens or is said
- **Mood** - The emotional atmosphere of a piece - how the reader “feels”
- **Motif** - A recurring feature of a work that develops a theme
- **Plot** - The sequence of events in a work of literature
- **Point of View** - The perspective from which the story is told
- **Protagonist** - The main character of a work - the one we “root for”
- **Resolution** - The moment when all of the loose ends are tied up and all of the questions are answered
- **Rising Action** - The “first hurdles” in the literary work
- **Setting** - The time and place where the story occurs
- **Symbolism** - An object, person, or place used to represent something else
- **Theme** - The underlying main idea of a work - often an opinion about the subject
- **Tone** - The author’s attitude towards the subject or events