

- good time to make use of your "Teacher's Portfolio" if you have one or a scrapbook that you use to chronicle your life's work.
- Complete a S.M.A.R.T. sheet to demonstrate that it is important to continue to dream and to challenge yourself even after you have achieved many of your life's goals.
 - Write the following quote on the board:
 - **"What would you do if you knew you could not fail?"**
- When the students arrive**

- Ask your students to write a journal entry using the quote on the board for inspiration.
- Ask your students to share their answers. Share some of your answers as well.
- Ask your students to examine the artefacts displayed on the table or present your portfolio to the class.
- Ask the students to make inferences about the special items that you have on display.
- Write "Dreams" and "Goals" on the board. Lead a brainstorming session based on the two words.
- Ask the students to identify some of the dreams and goals found in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
- Ask the students to identify how Junior was able to achieve his goals. How did he manage to overcome some of the obstacles that stood in his way?
- Ask the students to share some of their dreams and goals with the class.
- Share some of your childhood dreams and goals with the class and any obstacles that you had to overcome to achieve them. Identify any people who helped you to achieve your dreams.
- Introduce the S.M.A.R.T. approach to goal setting by sharing your completed worksheet with the class.
- Guide the students through the process step-by-step stopping to answer of questions as required. Upon completion, ask your students to share some of their goals with the class.
- Explain the importance of having a strong support system when one embarks on the journey to achieve her or his dreams. Again, identify some of the people who

supported you on your personal journey.

- Review the completed worksheets with your students and ask them to bring their worksheets home to share with their family.
- Direct your student's attention to the bottom of the page reserved for their signature and the signature of their "number one fan". Explain that their #1 Fan can be anyone they look to for support.
- Instruct the students to ask their #1 Fan to sign their sheet for them. Once this step has been completed, the students should put their S.M.A.R.T. sheets in their scrapbooks or somewhere else they can access it easily because they will be referring back to the sheet often.

Debriefing

- The students should now be well aware of their personal talents and dreams and should have developed a plan to achieve their goals. Remind the students that goal setting is an ongoing process that requires constant review and reassure them that it is natural and expected that they may change their minds about what they want to do in the future many times. The important thing is that they never stop dreaming.

PLOT - A plot is a series of events and character actions that relate to the central conflict. Plainly stated, the plot tells us what is going to happen in the story.

Plot Elements:

1. **Exposition/Introduction:** This part introduces the characters and their personalities.

2. **Rising Action:** This part helps recognize and reveal the conflicts of the characters to another character or to himself. This also shows the progression of the story.

3. **Climax:** This Part shows suspense (Turning point) in the novel that surprises the reader.

4. **Falling Action or Resolution:** This part demonstrates how the character overcomes the problems and conflicts presented in the rising action. (If we have a rising action we must have the falling action.)

POINT OF VIEW - The viewpoint of the Narrator or Storyteller.

- a. **Objective-** As in a movie, the narrator only tells what is seen and heard.
- b. **First Person-** The Protagonist tells the story with her/his thoughts and feelings (uses "I").
- c. **Omniscient-** The Narrator is "all knowing" about the thoughts and feelings of many characters.
- d. **Limited Omniscient-** The Narrator tells the thoughts and feelings of only one character.

CHARACTER - A character is a person, or sometimes even an animal, who takes part in the action of a short story or other literary work. Most stories will have a protagonist (main character) and at least one antagonist (person who causes conflict).

SETTING - The setting of a short story is the time and place in which it happens. Authors often use descriptions of landscape, scenery, buildings, seasons or weather to provide a strong sense of setting.

CONFLICT - The conflict is a struggle between two people or things in a short story. The main character is usually on one side of the central conflict.

- On the other side, the main character may struggle against another important character, against the forces of nature, against society, or even against something inside himself or herself (feelings, emotions, illness).

7 Types of Conflict

- 1. MAN VS. MAN:** The protagonist must overpower the antagonist. Example: Superman vs. Lex Luther.
- 2. MAN VS. SELF:** An inner conflict in which the protagonist must resolve a conflict within. Example: Bruce Banner from *The Incredible Hulk*.
- 3. MAN VS. NATURE:** The protagonist must overcome the forces of nature. Example: The humans from the movie *2012*.
- 4. MAN VS. SOCIETY:** The protagonist must overcome a conflict s/he encounters at the hands of a society or population. Example: The characters from Drew Hayden Taylor's *Dead White Writer on the Floor* try to overcome the stereotypes imposed upon them by a society that doesn't want them to be real.

- 5. MAN VS. FATE/DESTINY:** The protagonist tries to change her or his stars. Example: Harry Potter's fate in the books of the same name is foretold (it is predicted that he will perish with his archenemy) and he must find a way to defeat Voldemort without dying in the process.

- 6. MAN VS. TECHNOLOGY:** The newest of the conflicts, man versus technology refers to a conflict in which a manmade technological advance goes rogue on its' human creators. Example: John Connor of *The Terminator* franchise must defeat *Cyberdyne* and the T100's – T1000's, etc.

- 7. MAN VS. SUPERNATURAL:** The eldest of all conflicts, however man versus supernatural is not always acknowledged as a main conflict. Example: Any First Nations story that contains a Trickster or some other form of non-human character with magical powers.

THEME

- The theme is the central idea or belief in a short story. Example: Identity politics is the overall theme of Drew Hayden Taylor's *Dead White Writer on the Floor*.

CHARACTERIZATION**Flat or Static Characters:**

- A flat character is a minor character in a work of fiction who does not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. Also referred to as "two-dimensional characters" or "static characters," flat characters play a supporting role to the main character, who as a rule should be round.

Round or Dynamic Characters:

- A round character is a major character in a work of fiction who encounters conflict and is changed by it. Round characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or static, characters. If you think of the characters you most love in fiction, they probably seem as real to you as people you know in real life. This is a good sign that they are round characters.

Stock Characters:

- Stock characters draw from widely known cultural types for their characteristics and mannerisms, and are often used in parody. Every culture has its own set of stock characters. A good example of a stock character is Pocahontas, she is always written as a delicate and love-stuck "Indian Princess." Another good example comes from the characters of Drew Hayden Taylor's play *Dead White Writer on the Floor*; all of his characters were purposefully written as stock characters, based on well-known stereotypes.
- Writers should be aware that racially based stock characters present a number of risks unless the writer is intimately familiar with the culture. It's easy to get the details wrong, and incorrect stereotypes may offend the reader.

Protagonists:

- The protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with. The **antagonist** opposes the protagonist. In the most archetypical narratives, this boils down to bad guy vs. good guy: Luke Skywalker versus Darth Vader in the first *Star Wars* movie, for instance.

Antagonists:

- The antagonist is essential to many works of literature, but is it really just a

matter of bad guy vs. good guy? These examples illustrate more complicated scenarios. The antagonist in a work of fiction is the character who opposes the hero, or protagonist. The antagonist, when there is one, provides the story's conflict.

*Sometimes it is not so obvious who the antagonist is because the characters may change roles at some point, making the audience empathize with the antagonist. For example, in Thomas King's *Totem*, at first it appears that the Totem itself is the antagonist because he is making life difficult for the humans found within the story. However, upon a closer look, we realize that the curator (White culture) of the museum is actually the antagonist, as he is the one that tries to silence or hide the Totem (Indigenous culture) because it is irritating and doesn't fit within the landscape.*

STUDENT NOTES: ELEMENTS OF A STORY

PLOT - What Happens? The plot will help you to understand the events that occur in the story; simply stated, the plot is the structure or chain of events of the story.

1. Inciting Incident or Conflict- The event that sets in motion the action of the story.

2. Rising Action- Complications and discoveries, which create conflict.

3. Climax- Turning point of the plot, emotional intensity of the story.

4. Falling Action or Resolution- Series of events following the climax. "Unknotting" resolution of the conflicts.

POINT OF VIEW - The viewpoint of the Narrator or Storyteller.

a. Objective- As in a movie, the narrator only tells what is seen and heard.

b. First Person- The Protagonist tells the story with her/his thoughts and feelings (uses "I").

c. Omniscient- The Narrator is "all knowing" about the thoughts and feelings of many characters.

d. Limited Omniscient- The Narrator tells the thoughts and feelings of only one character.

CHARACTER - Who Does it Happen to?

a. Protagonist- main character

b. Antagonist- person, situation, or inner conflict in opposition to the main character's goals.

c. Secondary Characters- all characters other than the protagonist and antagonist.

SETTING - When and where does it happen?

a. Geographical region

b. Time or era of the story

c. Immediate surroundings

CONFLICT – The problem(s) presented in the story.

The conflict is a struggle between two people or things in a short story. The main character is usually on one side of the central conflict.

- **7 Types of Conflict:** Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Fate, Man vs. Technology, Man vs. Supernatural.

THEME - The author's message.

- The theme is expressed through the words and actions of the characters in a series of situations that make up the plot. Each situation takes place in a setting.

Use the attached graphic organizer to record examples of the five Elements of a Story found during your novel study.