

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Language Arts

Grade 8

W2 - Lesson 2: Short Story Elements II

Important Concepts of Grade 8 Language Arts

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Materials Required

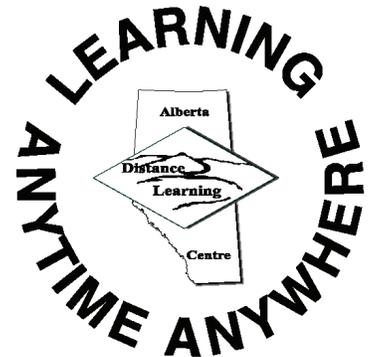
Textbooks:

1. *ResourceLines 7/8*
2. *SightLines 8*

Language Arts Grade 8
Version 5
Preview/Review W2 - Lesson 2

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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Eight Language Arts



*W2 - Lesson 2:
Short Story Elements II*

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- recognize, understand, and explain the elements of a short story: conflict, flashback, foreshadowing, mood or tone, and point of view or narration
- understand how to use parentheses appropriately

GLOSSARY

conflict - the problem occurring in the story; obstacles in the characters' way

flashback - a moment in a story that returns to events in the past, usually to explain something happening in the present

foreshadowing - an event in a story that gives a hint about what is going to happen to the characters in the story

mood - the feeling the reader gets from the story; often the result of the tone of the characters or the writer

narration/point of view - indication of who is telling the story

verb tense - indication of when an action happened; in the past, present, or future (e.g., *He ran* is past. *He is running* is present. *He will run* is future.)

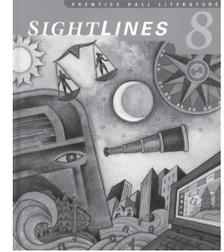
W2 - Lesson 2: Short Story Elements II

Review

In W2-Lesson 1, you learned or reviewed three important elements of a short story: setting, characters, and plot structure. You also learned how to analyze character motivation. If necessary, review these concepts.

Activity 1

Read “The Moth and the Star” p. 222 *SightLines 8* and answer questions 1 and 2.



- List the elements of the story.

Setting: _____

Characters: _____

- Summarize the plot structure of the story.

Introduction: _____

Rising Action: _____

Climax: _____

Falling Action: _____

End or Dénouement: _____

Parentheses

Parentheses or brackets can be used to enclose an interrupting word or word group that adds information but does not change the meaning of a sentence.

Example:

- All of us except Jane (she is very superstitious) walked under the ladder.

Activity 2

Rewrite the following sentences and put parentheses in the correct places.

1. Two of my cousins Jan and Tracy are going to university this September.

2. Many roads are closed about ten, but we will try to arrive before Monday.

3. Our coach a young exchange student from Japan was very strict.

4. We traveled 400 km 240 miles before we stopped.

5. Jane Seymour the actress had twin boys.

Short Story Elements

Five elements of writing used in short stories that we have not discussed yet are the ideas of narration or point of view, conflict, and mood, and the literary techniques of flashback and foreshadowing.

Narration/Point of View

Point of view is identification of who is telling the story. Three possible points of view are

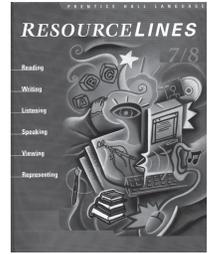
1. First person – The story is told by one person using the pronoun *I*.
2. Third person – The story is told by the narrator, using the pronouns *he*, *she*, or *they*; the narrator is not part of the story.
3. Omniscient – The story is told by an all-knowing narrator who may tell the story from the point of view of any, all, or none of the characters.

Conflict

Conflict is the obstacle or problem in the story. Conflict occurs when an obstacle prevents a character from achieving his or her goal. Conflicts are of three types:

1. Character vs. Character – e.g., Sam and Taylor have a disagreement.
2. Character vs. Environment – e.g., Alex is lost on a remote trail in the mountains.
3. Character vs. Self – e.g., Jordan wants to be part of the “in” crowd, but he doesn’t like how they treat Kelly.

Stories may have one or more conflict. For more information on conflict, refer to page 50 of your *ResourceLines 7/8* text.



Mood

Mood is the overall feeling the reader gets from the story. A writer’s use of language reveals his or her tone or attitude toward the subject matter. The writer may be playful, formal, angry, serious, funny, baffled, tender, peaceful, depressed, etc., and the writer may make the reader feel that way also.

Flashback

A flashback sends the reader to an earlier time or event that is relevant to the present situation. The writer may use words or phrases such as “I remember when...” or “A few years earlier...” Sometimes a flashback is indicated by a change in font or additional space between paragraphs. Often, a **verb tense** shift from the **present** to the **past** alerts the reader that a flashback is being used. For example, “I **remember** (present tense) the night so clearly. I **had gone** (past tense) upstairs to change for the party...”

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing creates suspense by hinting at things to come. “Had she known, she never would have gone there at night,” or “Everything would change when she met Bob,” are examples of foreshadowing. Not all foreshadowing is this direct. Sometimes the hints are so subtle you miss them until the event has occurred. Then it hits you – “OH! That’s why...” Writers may use narration of the setting or events, or the characters’ thoughts, statements, and actions to foreshadow.

Activity 3

Read the following excerpt and identify the features listed below.

“Watch where you are going, you nut!” John hollered through the closed car window. “Those semi-trucks have no business passing on a night like tonight,” he muttered. He gripped the wheel firmly and his arms ached, but he tried to relax his fingers and breathe deeply. He squinted through the windshield against the glare of the falling snow. John knew he had to relax. If it is snowing, stay home. John remembered the advice of his AAA driving instructor. If you really don’t have to go out, don’t. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don’t tempt fate. “Yeah, but Saturday’s our big game,” thought John, “I can’t miss this practice!” The roads were beginning to get slippery, and here and there in the ditch were cars that had slid off the highway. At times it was hard for John to see the oncoming car headlights until they were almost upon him. Suddenly the lights became unbearably bright...it seemed they were shining right at him. A horn blasted.

1. Narration or point of view:

2. Type of conflict:

3. Mood of this piece:

4. Evidence of a flashback:

5. Event being foreshadowed: _____

a. Clue 1 (character's words or thoughts):

b. Clue 2 (character's actions):

c. Clue 3 (narrator's description of setting):

d. Clue 4 (an event):

3. Why are Marc's files important?

4. What do you think Marc will do with the new-found card? What will happen?

Read the rest of the story.

5. What is the main source of conflict in this story?

6. How was Marc able to find Green Bottle Street?

7. What does Marc learn about this little community?

8. What decision does Marc make at the end of the story?

12. How does Marc change by the end of the story?

Learning Log

Take time to reflect on and record your learning process for this lesson.

1. What do I know about:

a. Point of view

b. Conflict

c. Flashback

d. Foreshadowing

2. What questions about these topics do I still have?



