

Glossary

action	the events in the novel	device	a literary technique which is used to create a certain effect
allegory	the use of events and characters as <i>symbols</i> i.e. to represent ideas and qualities	dramatic	exciting and impressive
antagonist	a character who blocks the progress of the <i>main character</i>	explore	to describe and discuss
author	the person who wrote the novel	external conflict	see <i>conflict</i>
cast	a cast is the group of people who act together in a theatre play. <i>Cast</i> is often used to describe the group of characters in a novel too.	figures of speech	expressions which are used to add detail to a description through comparison (see <i>simile</i> and <i>metaphor</i>)
central features	(see also <i>physical features</i>) the most important details about a person's body or face	filter (v)	to describe the facts from a certain <i>point of view</i> .
central theme	see <i>theme</i>	first person	using the pronouns <i>I</i> and <i>me</i>
characters	the people in a novel	first person narrator	see <i>narrator</i>
main/key characters	the most important people in the novel	flashback	a device used to describe an event that happened before the main story
minor characters	characters who are not described in detail	flashforward	a device used to describe an event that will happen in the future
characterisation	how the novelist describes the characters	genre	a particular style or type of novel
chronologically	in the order they happened	heroine	a woman who is the most important person in the novel
colour (v)	to influence a description	hero	a man who is the most important person in the novel
common themes	see <i>theme</i>	imagery	the use of the five senses in describing a scene
complex	not following a simple, straight line	internal conflict	see <i>conflict</i>
conflict	a problem that faces the main character/s	irony	a device that shows the contrast between reality and appearance
external conflict	a problem which involves the character and someone or something else	key events	the most important events
internal conflict	a problem that is a part of the character's personality	limited third person narrator	see <i>narrator</i>
counterpart	a character who has a similar and an equally important role	linear	in a straight line, starting at the beginning and working through the events in sequence
develop	used to describe progress in the <i>plot</i> , in the description of a <i>character</i> or in the exploration of a <i>theme</i> .	main plot	see <i>plot</i>

main characters	see <i>characters</i>		told at the same time as the main plot
mechanics	the mechanics of the plot are the small details of the events and actions	point of view	the position from which a story is told, the 'eyes' through which we see and understand the story
metaphor	an expression which describes one thing as if it was another thing (i.e. he was a hungry wolf) see also <i>simile</i>	protagonist	see <i>main character</i>
minor characters	see <i>characters</i>	psychological development	the way a character's personality changes
motivation	the reason why someone does something	race ahead	move forward very quickly.
narrator	the person who tells the story	realistic	describing things as they are in real life
third person narrator	a narrator who sees the story from outside and who can see into the minds and hearts of all the characters, as well as see all the action that takes place	recurring themes	see <i>theme</i>
first person narrator	a narrator who tells the story in the first person i.e. using <i>I</i> and <i>me</i> not <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> , to talk about the main character.	reliable	someone you can trust
limited third person narrator	a narrator who uses the third person, <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> to talk about the main character, but whose view of the action and the other people involved in the plot is limited to the main character.	resolution	the end of a conflict (see <i>conflict</i>), often comes at the end of the novel retell to tell a story another person has told you
third person narrator	a narrator who speaks in the third person using <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> or <i>they</i> to talk about all the characters.	reverse chronology	starting at the end and going backwards in time
pace	the speed at which the story is told	saga	a story told about two or more generations of the same family
personality traits	details about a person's personality eg, proud, intelligent, silly, obsessed by revenge.	satire	a style which criticises a person, event or part of society by making it look funny or stupid
physical features	details about a person's body and face, for example, dark hair, blue eyes, a scar on his face or a wooden leg.	shift (n)	a change in <i>style</i> or in <i>pace</i>
plot	the story told by the novel	simile	an expression which describes someone or something by comparing it to someone or something else using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> (eg, <i>he was as hungry as a wolf</i>)
main plot	the most important story told in the novel	story-teller	a person who tells a story
sub plots	stories in the novel that are	style	the way the novel is written
		sub plots	see <i>plot</i>
		symbol	a person or an object that represents a particular quality or idea
		symbolise	to be a symbol of something
		symbolism	the use of <i>symbols</i>
		theme	a topic that is discussed in literature
		central theme	the most important theme

common themes	themes that are often discussed in literature
recurring themes	themes that are repeatedly discussed by the same novelist
third person narrator	see <i>narrator</i>
timeframe	the length of time the story takes
two-dimensional	not described in detail
vivid	very clear and detailed