

English 7 Term Paper

Today we are going to be talking about the things that I have been taught in the 7th grade English class. In the first semester of this course we talked about the 5 parts of fiction, progression of story, as well as some other types of prose literature. We also talked about elements that make up a good story, and some other kinds of literature. We talked about prose, drama, and poetry, which are subsets of fiction and non-fiction. Prose, drama, and poetry are also new topics for me. We also talked about a few other topics, like how things that the author thinks and believes can influence the piece of literature, we talked about some famous works of literature which I will touch on.

There are two types of literature, those being fiction and non-fiction. Fiction basically means it was made up, invented by the author. So that means non-fiction is true story. All the other categories of literature stem from these first two. For the larger portion of the year, we studied prose and read prose literature. There are several categories within prose, including but not limited to novels, novellas, and short stories. A novel is a full-length chapter book. A short story is a story that does not take very long to read and does not cover many side plots. A novella is in between the two, being shorter than a novel, but longer than a short story.

The progression of a story is essentially the stages in which a story unfolds. It begins with the exposition, which introduces the characters and it focuses on character development. Next is the rising action, which consists of the events leading up to the climax. Then we have the climax itself, which is the most intense part of the story, the moment that determines everything that follows. After the climax, we then have the falling action, which is the

aftermath of the climax, until we finally reach the resolution, which wraps up any loose ends, and concludes the story.

The five parts of fiction are character, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. The characters are the things (for lack of a better word) that the story is about. The characters are the ones performing the actions that have been recorded in the piece of literature. The protagonist is the main character, the person we are following as we read the book. The antagonist is the main character's opponent or enemy. There are also side characters, the characters that the main character meets along the way. The setting is, quite simply, where the events of the story take place. The setting can be anywhere you can imagine, whether the location is real or not. The setting can change as the characters move around the world, and can be anything from a different country or a different city to a different time or dimension. The setting is supposed to draw a picture that the reader can imagine in their head without an actual picture in the book. The plot is the sequence of events that take place in a story, one leading to another. The plot is connected by plot points, which changes the direction of the plot. For example, if a somebody is traveling along looking for something or someone, and they obtained a clue as to where said object or their person is, then they might go in a different direction altogether from where they were previously going. That would be considered a plot point. The conflict is when the protagonist and antagonist clash. This is also normally a plot point. For example, a small battle between two factions. It could also be an ongoing conflict, where the protagonist and antagonist are constantly at odds. The resolution is the end of the story, when the conflict is resolved. This occurs when one faction beats the other, they become friends, or anything else ends the conflict.

Drama is when a story is going to be written out in a manner that it can be acted out in a play, a video, or any other way of acting out a story. It is usually written like a script so that people can act it out. For example:

Enter Character 1 and Character 2

Character 1: Thou knowest thou art very cunning, noble character 2

Character 2: ye, I thank thee for thou praise, good friend character 1

This is written in drama. Here is the same interaction in prose:

Character 1 said, "Thou knowest thou art very cunning, noble character 2"

Character 2 responded, "ye, I thank thee for thou praise, good friend character 1"

See how differently the same interaction is written? Drama generally has more behind-the-scenes items in it to keep the play running smoothly. In the example above, you can see it says "*Enter Character 1 and Character 2*". That indicates that the two actors playing those characters walk onto the stage and begin their act or scene. It is also written as lines for the actors to read, rather than the normal 3rd person reading we are used to. Drama is written tailored to actors and plays, whereas prose is tailored to being read from a book.

Poetry is typically written more like prose than drama, but in a more sing-song like way. There are many different types of poetry. I'm going to put a quick Haiku in here for some reference. A Haiku is a poem with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second line, and 5 in the third line.

Summer is quite hot

Everyone knows that is true

Except in the north

The first line has 5 syllables SUM-MER IS QUITE HOT

The second line has 7 syllables EV-ERY-ONE KNOWS THAT IS TRUE

The third line has 5 syllables EX-CEPT IN THE NORTH

The time in which the author lives and what their worldview is greatly influence a piece of literature. Other things can influence a piece of literature greatly as well, such as events that occurred during the authors lifetime, including events of their childhood and other such matters. For example, take *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. That book was very very much influenced by Christianity as well as the time in which the author lived.

Some famous works of literature are the Bible, *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare (along with his many other works), *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* by Homer, and *Around the World in Eighty Days*, by Jules Verne.

I'm going to go into some greater detail about some of the books listed above now.

The Chronicles of Narnia is an 8 volume series about a fictional land called Narnia. There are 8 books in the series and they go as follows: *The Magician's Nephew* goes into the creation of the land of Narnia; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* tells the story of the four rulers of the land that would become legend; *The Horse and his Boy* is a tale often told at banquet feasts in Narnia, and has been written in the real world in this book. It takes place during the

previous volume; *Prince Caspian* takes place in the far future after *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and tells the tale of a new prince being raised during a dark time for the kingdom; *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* takes place a few years after *Prince Caspian* when he sails to the edge of Narnia's flat world; *The Silver Chair*, takes place many years after *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, and tells a story of an underground civilization and an evil witch that haunts the northeast of Narnia; Finally, *The Last Battle* tells us what C.S. Lewis' belief of the afterlife is, and is essentially the moral of the entire series.

Robinson Crusoe is the story of a shipwrecked sailor who is able to make a living for himself on an island. Crusoe had to be very resourceful to be able to survive and thrive on his island, but he was able to successfully do so.

Pilgrim's Progress was written by John Bunyan, and was a fictional book with heavy personification toward the hardships of an enduring Christian. Next to the Bible, this is the most famous book of all time.

I have not read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, so I am not going to make any comments about that book. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, I have, however, read. *Tom Sawyer* is an adventure novel telling about the life of a boy in St. Petersburg, Missouri. We don't know exactly when *Tom Sawyer* took place, but sometime in the 1840's. I really enjoyed reading *Tom Sawyer*, as it was about a mischievous boy and find that to be very entertaining.

I'm now going to go into some detail about my favorite book. My favorite book series is *Tom Swift*, and it is a series of action-adventure novels, totaling up to 35 books. I have read the first 33, but I do not own the others as yet. The *Tom Swift* series follows the young

inventor Tom Swift as he progresses through the years of his early manhood. Over the course of the series, Tom goes on many adventures, both in new inventions he has created, and in existing pieces of technology. Victor Appleton wrote the entirety of the *Tom Swift* series. I could not find much about him online, as Victor Appleton was his pen name under which he wrote his books, and it seems not much is known about him.

In this paper we talked about literature analysis, Prose, Drama, and Poetry, how outside events influence a work of literature, some famous works of literature, and my favorite book series.