English 9

*SpringBoard*

Unit 2: Defining Style

2.2 Genre Study: Reviewing the Elements of a Story

**Short Story:** a form of narrative. Narratives include made-up stories (fiction) as well as real-life stories (nonfiction). A short story is a work of fiction.

Plot: sequence of events in a literary work

Plot Diagram

Climax

Rising action Falling action

CONFLICT

Exposition Resolution/denouement

Exposition: events that give the reader background information needed to understand a story (characters are introduced, the setting is described, and the conflict begins to unfold)

Rising Action: the movement of a p lot toward a climax or moment of greatest excitement; the rising action is fueled by the characters’ responses to the conflict

Climax: the point at which the action reaches its peak; the point of greatest interest or suspense in a story; the turning point at which the outcome of a conflict is decided

Falling Action: the events in a play, story, or novel that follow the climax, or moment of greatest suspense, and lead to the resolution

Resolution/Denouement: the end of a play, story, or novel in which the main conflict is finally resolved

Verify: to prove or confirm that something is true

Characters: the people, animals, or imaginary creatures that take part in the action of the story

Main Character/Protagonist: the central character, the one who is involved in the main conflict of the story and the one who moves the actions along

Minor Characters: secondary characters whose thoughts, words, or actions also move the action of the story along

Theme: a literary work’s central idea or main message about life; usually not stated directly but left to the reader to define; not a moral

Point of View: the perspective from which a narrative is told

Irony: a literary device that exploits readers’ expectations when expected occurrences are different from what actually happens

Imagery: verbal expression of sensory experience; imagery is created by details that appeal to one or more of the five senses (sight, touch, taste, sound, smell)

Figurative Language: images such as metaphors and similes that describe one thing in terms of another; not meant to be taken literally

Symbol: any object, animal, event, person, or place that represents itself but also stands for something else on a figurative level

Allusion: a reference to a well-known person, event, or place from history, music, art, or another literary work

Conflict: struggle between opposing forces

Internal Conflict: conflict within a character’s mind (person vs. him/herself)

External Conflict: conflict between a character and an outside force (person vs. person; person vs. society; person vs. nature; person vs. environment)

2.3 Experimenting with Point of View

First Person Point of View: The narrator is a character in the story and refers to himself or herself as “I”

Third-Person Limited Point of View: The narrator is a character in the story and provides the reader the insight thoughts of only one character but none of the thoughts of any of the other characters

Third-Person Omniscient Point of View: this type of narrator is not a character but is all-knowing and is able to recount the background and insight thoughts and feelings of any character

2.4 Writer’s Style

Writer’s Style: is created by the elements such as diction, syntax, imagery, and point of view.

Sentence Fragment: group of words that is grammatically incomplete and cannot stand alone

Emulate: imitate another writer’s style, including how he or she constructs sentences

2.5 Meaning of Imagery and Symbols

Symbol: is anything (any object, animal, event, person, or place) that represents itself but also stands for something else on a figurative level

Figurative Language: refers to the use of words to describe one thing in terms of another

Literal Language: uses the exact meanings, or denotations, for words

2.6 Introducing Irony

Irony: occurs when something turns out to be quite different from what is expected

* Situational Irony: occurs when an event contradicts the expectations of the characters or the reader

Tone: is a writer’s (or speaker’s) attitude toward a subject, character, or audience.

* Tone can be serious, humorous, sarcastic, indignant, objective, etc.
* A writer’s diction and imagery help to create the tone
* To be able to recognize an author’s tone, a key factor is understanding the author’s purpose or meaning. (If you miss the irony, you miss the meaning!)

Allusions: are references that writers make to a well-known person, event, or place from history, music, art, or another literary work.

* Writers make these references to draw comparison, create imagery, establish humor, or reinforce emotions.
* The three main categories of allusions:
  + Bible
  + Mythology
  + History

Theme: a literary work’s central idea or main message about life; usually not stated directly but left to the reader to define; not a moral

Diffusing a Text:

* Read the passage
* Note unfamiliar words
* Use context clues, dictionaries, or other resources to discover meaning for the unfamiliar words

Commentary: refers to the expression of opinions or explanations about an event or situation

Textual Commentary: in an essay refers to explanations about the significance or importance of supporting details or examples in an analysis

SIFT:

* Symbol
* Imagery
* Figurative Language
* Tone/Theme

2.7 Close Reading of a Short Story

Foreshadowing: clues as to what may happen next

* Writers use foreshadowing to create suspense and to allow readers to anticipate the events of the story

Questioning the Text

* Level 1: Literal: literal questions can be answered by referring back to the text or consulting resources.

Ex. *What is “Coney Island”?*

* Level 2: Interpretive: Interpretive questions call for inferences; answers cannot be found directly in the text; however, textual evidence points to and supports your answers.

Ex. *Why does the narrator call this young couple “the wisest”?*

* Level 3: Universal: Universal questions go beyond the text. What are the larger issues or ideas raised by the text?

Ex. *Why are some people motivated to make sacrifices for others?*

Textual Evidence: consists of details, quotations, and examples from a text that support the analysis or argument presented. It is the information that supports or proves an interpretation or claim.

2.9 Irony

Irony: a literary device that exploits readers’ expectations when expected occurrences are different from what actually happens

* Situational Irony: occurs when an event contradicts the expectations of the characters or the reader
* Verbal Irony: having a speaker or narrator say one thing while meaning another
* Dramatic Irony: when the reader knows more about what is to happen than the main characters know

Verbal: is a form of a verb that is used as some other part of speech—a noun, an adjective, or an adverb

* Participle: is a verbal that functions as an adjective
  + Ex. Throwing them aside, I soon uncovered a quality of stone and mortar.
* Gerund: is a verbal that ends in “ing” and functions as a noun
  + Ex. When at last the clanking subsided, I resumed.
* Infinitive: is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective or an adverb. The word “to” usually appears in front of the verb form
  + Ex. Unsheathing my rapier, I began to grope with it about the recess.