

## Elements of Fiction

Class Notes – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

1. **Characters** – the people, animals, or inanimate (nonliving) objects in a story
  - **Protagonist** – the main character, person we’re rooting FOR
  - **Antagonist** – person who causes conflict for the main character; person we’re rooting AGAINST
2. **Setting** – the time and place of the story
3. **Plot** – the events in the story
  - **Rising Action** – events leading up to the climax
  - **Climax** – the turning point; protagonist has to make a decision
  - **Falling Action** – events after the climax, the results of the protagonist’s decision
  - **Resolution** – conflict is resolved, story concludes

Diagram (arc):

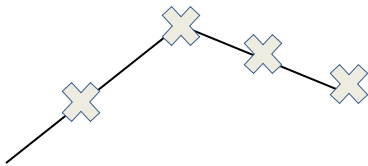
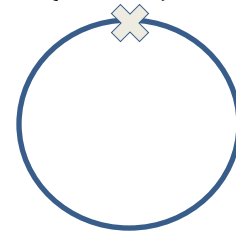


Diagram (circular journey):



(character begins and ends in same place)

4. **Point of View** – the person or “voice” narrating the story
  - **1<sup>st</sup> person** – I am telling my own story; main character narrates  
Example: *I am going to the store for my birthday*
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> person** – an outside narrator is telling the story  
Example: *The boy lay bleeding in the rain. He was wearing a purple jacket.*
5. **Theme** – the universal idea about life the author is communicating