

Study Guide: Foundations of Entertaining — 8th Grade Assessment

Plot Elements-

Exposition: The introduction where the setting (time and place), characters and conflict are introduced.

Resolution: The end of the story when all loose ends are tied up. May or may not solve the problem. (Monkey's Paw... the street was empty."



Literary Elements-

Theme: the overall lesson an audience can learn. Sometimes the characters in the story learn the lesson as well. This should be the **BIG** lesson applied to life, not a specific lesson learned in the story. (Icarus learned it wasn't wise to fly close to the sun... that was a specific lesson, not the theme; the theme/message of the story was a lesson on how people shouldn't put too much faith in their personal talents and accomplishments.

Conflict: a problem. A disagreement between a character and himself herself, a character vs. a character, a character vs nature, a character vs. the supernatural, or a character vs. society.

INTERNAL conflicts happen internally (inside) a character— this is the struggle within a person when a character needs to make an important decision. This often shapes the character and contributes to the message of the story. (Think good angel vs bad angel- the conscience)

EXTERNAL conflicts happen externally- this is when the conflict is between 2 characters, a force of nature, a group, a supernatural being. Think anything that a character faces outside of the body. These conflict often cause protagonist to face internal conflicts and make important decisions.

Dialogue - conversation between two or more people

Narrator - a person who tells the story, can be a character who tells the events. Sometime the character cannot be trusted because the reporting is from through that person's biases.

Point of View

First Person: The narrator participates in the action of the story. What the narrator is telling us may not always be reliable due to narrator bias— This would be 1st person LIMITED. Personal pronouns such as "I" are used.

Third Person: The person telling the story is not a part of the story— "he," "she," or "it" are often used. Think of it as a movie camera/ reporter reporting what is happening.

Limited: A narrator whose knowledge is limited to one character. We get to see this character's actions, thoughts, and interactions.

Omniscient: A narrator who knows everything about all the characters —is all knowing, or omniscient. Knows what everyone is thinking and feeling. Reports everything about everyone.

Setting

Historical Setting: time period in which the novel was written.

Cultural Setting: The activities or attitudes of the culture in which the novel is set. It can also be different cultural groups within one specific area. It is the behavior, beliefs, attitudes and actions of one group of people passed onto future generations. It can also be a geographic region such as urban, rural, or suburban.

Characterization—How the writer makes the character a real person to the audience. Characterization can be used to send a message to the audience. This can also be used to help show a message/theme. Look at what the characters say and do. Is there a clear message of what they should be doing? Are several of the characters valuing the same things such as perseverance, teamwork, honesty, integrity? Does a group of



characters learn to work together or overcome extreme odds? All of this can add to the authors message.

An author uses 2 tools to develop characters:

Direct Characterization: tells the audience about the character. "Jade was a mean and vicious girl."

Indirect Characterization: **shows** what a character is like through the characters actions or words. "In a rage, Jade glared at the boy, spit in his face, and told him he was not welcome at her school unless he wanted to do all her homework."

Also, other characters talking about a character, revealing details about that character, is INDIRECT characterization. Lisa said, "Can you believe how Jade spit in Jorge's face and demanded he do her homework?"

Dynamic character— the character has a shift in thinking. Internal changes occur showing how a character has learned something valuable.

Static character— the character never changes internally. Yoda may grow older, but his values, saying, and beliefs stay consistent.

Vocabulary to know:

Slang -informal words, often spoken by just a certain group of people. Teens often have their own slang. Almost sounds like a code or different language.

Examples—

y'all: Southern for all of you people

Whassup gangsta: a greeting to a group of friends

Bombdignity: something really good

buggin': freaking out

Inference- Draw conclusions based on clues given about the characters or situation.

Attitude: way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior.

Title: The name of a literary work. Often linked to the author's message or theme.

Questions: After reading any work of literature ask these questions...

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this?
2. What could anyone learn from this experience?
3. Interpret any slang. What are they really saying?