



Story Elements: Notes

Story elements are usually the **most important** features of **any** book that you read. They help the reader understand the book and keep the story running smoothly. Without any of these important aspects of a book, **any** story will seem **pointless** and **boring**.

They consist of 5 basic parts:

Plot:

- **Events** that make up a story
- **Main part** of the story that includes characters, conflict, and setting
- **Organizes** important information of a story
- **Most important** story element (Without a plot, there is **NO STORY**)

Character:

- **Person, animal, or thing** in a story
- Without any characters, no one can perform any actions to keep the story flowing
- Authors use characters to **perform actions** or **say something to one another**
- **Main character:** Story is **centered** around them

Conflict:

- The **problem/s** in the story
- These can be **major** or **minor**
- There is **usually one large problem** that drives the character along in the story, and a few minor problems.
- The story usually ends after the conflict is resolved, but in some cases, the author chooses to have the characters never solve it.

Theme:

- **“Big Idea”** or **message** of a story
- What **idea or belief** the author uses to convey the reader the message of the story
- Stories usually have **more than one** theme
- Identified by the plot, characters, and conflict in the story

Setting:

- The **location** where the story takes place
- The location could be **anywhere imaginable**, from your town to a fantasy world the author created
- The setting also has a **time** that the events of the story are happening in
- The author’s description of the setting could involve the 5 basic **senses** (sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch) and more