

Critical Thinking Skills

Literary Devices

Skills For Critical Thinking		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LEVEL 1 Remembering	Define, Duplicate, List, Memorize, Recall, Repeat, Reproduce, State	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Understanding	Classify, Describe, Discuss, Explain, Identify, Locate, Recognize	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Applying	Choose, Demonstrate, Dramatize, Employ, Illustrate, Interpret, Operate, Write	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysing	Appraise, Compare, Contrast, Criticize, Differentiate, Discriminate, Distinguish, Examine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Evaluating	Argue, Defend, Judge, Select, Support, Value, Decide, Evaluate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 6 Creating	Assemble, Construct, Create, Design, Develop, Formulate, Write.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



Characterization

1. Match the meaning on the right with its term on the left.

- A literary devices
- B character
- C characterization
- D 5 methods of characterization
- E major character
- F minor character

1. the character's physical appearance (how the character looks); 2. the character's thoughts (what the character thinks); 3. the character's actions (what the character does); 4. the character's speech (what the character says); and 5. the character's interactions with other characters in the story (how the other characters react to him or her).

- undeveloped characters
- well-developed characters
- an imaginary person or creature in a work of fiction (play, film, or story)
- the building blocks of storytelling
- the way the author gives his readers information about the characters

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

2. Choose a well-developed character in a book you have read and answer the following questions about him or her.

- a) What is the character's name? _____
- b) What is the character's physical appearance? (how he or she looks)

- c) What are some things the character does?

- d) What are some things the character says?

- e) How do other characters treat this character?



Plot

Now it is time to discuss another very important literary device, **plot**. **Plot** refers to what happens and how it happens in a narrative. A **narrative** is any written work that tells a story, such as a short story, a novel, or a play. **Plot** can also be defined as a “plan of action for a story, play, or movie.” Plot is usually the most important element in a story.

The plot of a story usually unfolds in a particular way. The **introduction** or **opening** describes the characters and the setting of the story. Next, the **rising action** happens. It is during this section of the plot that conflicts are introduced, and readers find out more about the main characters in the story. The third part of a plot is called the **climax**. The climax is the “high point” of a story, when the major conflicts end up in some kind of final showdown (a fight, an argument, physical action, or a very tense emotional moment). The climax is the point in the story where something **CHANGES**. Then, comes the **falling action**, a time immediately following the climax. The falling action deals with the results of the climax. Finally, the plot ends in a **resolution**, or a tying-up of all the loose ends left in the story. Most resolutions leave the readers with a sense of closure or completion. The stages of plot development are illustrated in the diagram below.



The Reading Watch Dog says,
“Here is a Plot Diagram to help you understand the plot sequence of a story:”





Using Graphic Organizers to Identify Plot

1. Choose one of the following fairy tales from the box or choose one of your own and use the elements of its plot to complete the graphic organizer below.

*Little Red Riding Hood Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Hansel and Gretel
Goldilocks and the Three Bears The Three Little Pigs Jack and the Beanstalk*

The Five Stages of Plot Development in a Story, Play, or Movie

