

Questions about the Elements of Fiction p. 15

- **Expectations: What do you expect?**
 - from the title? From the first sentence or paragraph?
 - after the first events or interactions of characters?
 - as the conflict is resolved?
- **What happens in the story?** (see Ch. 1)
 - Do the characters or the situation change from the beginning to the end ?
 - Can you summarize the plot? Is it a recognizable kind or genre of story?
- **How is the story narrated?** (see Ch. 2)
 - Is the narrator identified as a character?
 - Is it narrated in the past or present tense?
 - Is it narrated in the first, second or third person?
 - Do you know what every character is thinking, or only some characters, or none?
- **Who are the characters?** (see Ch. 3)
 - Who is the protagonist(s) (hero, heroine)?
 - Who is the antagonist(s) (villain, opponent, obstacle)?
 - Who are the other characters? What is their role in the story?
 - Do your expectations change with those of the characters, or do you know more or less than each of the characters?
- **What is the setting of the story?** (see Ch. 4)
 - When does the story take place?
 - Where does it take place?
 - Does the story move from one setting to another? Does it move in one direction only or back and forth in time and place?
- **What do you notice about how the story is written?**

- What is the style of the prose? Are the sentences and the vocabulary simple or complex?
- Are there any images, figures of speech or symbols (see Ch. 5)
- What is the tone or mood? Does the reader feel sad, amused, worried, curious?
- **What does the story mean Can you express its theme or themes?** (see Ch. 6)
 - Answers to these big questions may be found in many instances in your answers to the previous questions. The story's meaning or theme depends on all its features.