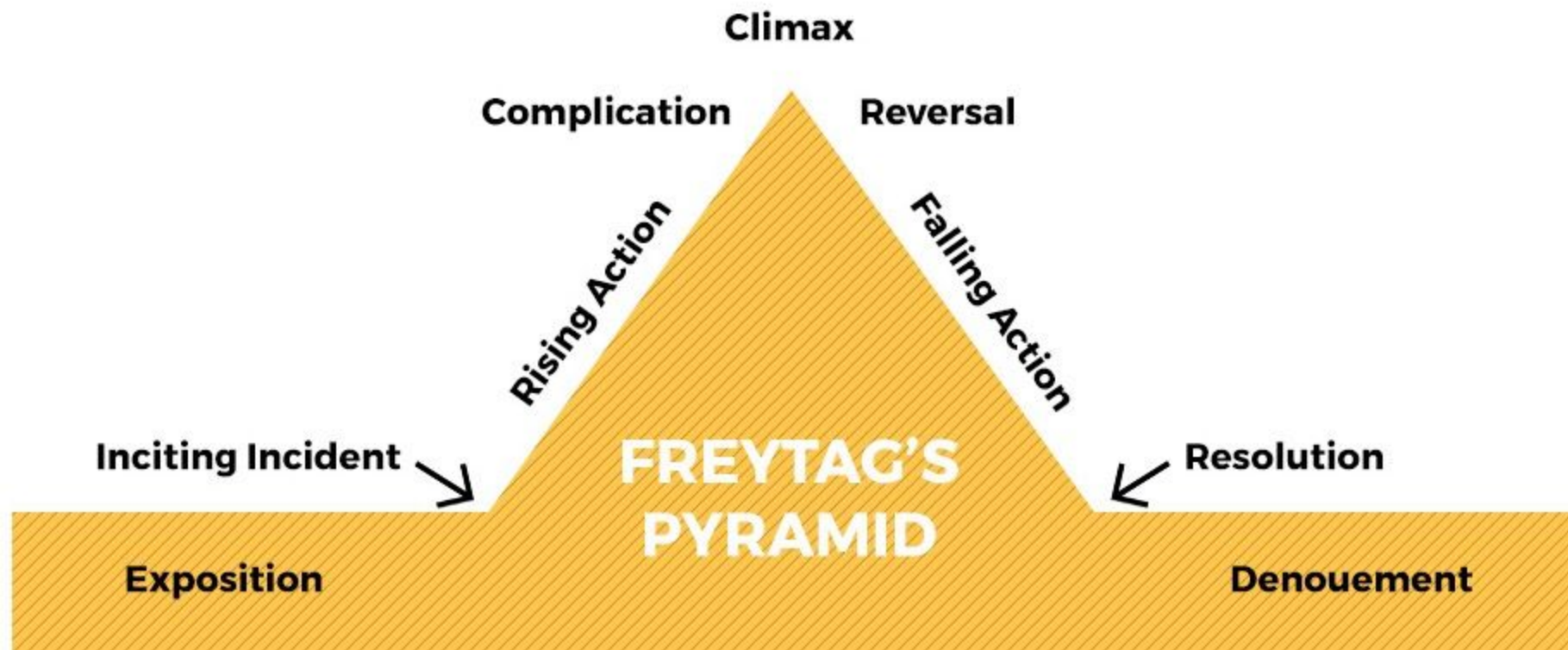


Short Stories

small machines for generating interpretations

“How I Met My Husband”



Short Story Outline: to be done for each work

- I. Title (in quotation marks) & Publication Date
- II. Author & Lifespan
- III. Major Characters
- IV. Minor Characters
- V. Point of View
- VI. Setting
- VII. Conflict
- VIII. Theme
- IX. Foster Chapter w/ brief explanation

Plot Analysis: What questions should you ask?

- Is the story divided into sections or parts? What structural importance do they have?
- What changes do you note? Weather, times of day/ year/ season, places?
- If the story departs from the formal structure, what purpose do these departures have?
- What variations in chronological order appear?
- Are there any delays of crucial details of exposition? For what effect?
- Where does an important action or a major section begin?
- What are the micro settings? What significant things occur there?

For all of the plot questions...

When you identify the ideas about plot in the work of fiction that you are reading or have read, you need to ask yourself the following question:

For what purpose?

One-Pager

Write a one paragraph plot analysis for “How I Met My Husband.”

- You need a clear claim about the significance of the plot/ structure of the story- this claim must be in your **topic sentence**
- At least two quotations with context, lead-ins, and parenthetical citations (Munro 121)
- Analysis that includes interpretation connecting the claim in the topic sentence to the quotations

Characterization

Content Vocabulary

Round ————— Flat

Dynamic ————— Static

As Foster points out, these are continuums...

Classify

1. Helios
2. Penelope
3. Circe
4. Edie
5. Chris Watters
6. Dr. Peebles
7. Jocelyn Tarbet
8. Parker Sparrow
9. Arabella

Characterization

Direct: telling about the character with specific reference or explanation

Indirect: showing the character through thoughts, appearance, & interaction

T: The character's **thoughts**

O: What **others say** about the character

A: The character's **appearance**

D: What the character **does**

S: What the character **says**

Passages for Analysis

P. 63 (in the 2nd & 3rd columns)--"Those two years...Jocelyn Tarbet sang more sweetly than I ever could."

P. 64 (1st column)- "But, of course, there were differences...Or to find a book."

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How to analyze character

1. Who are the main characters in this story? Who is the protagonist? Who is the antagonist?
2. What do we know about them? How does the author provide that information? Are the descriptions and characterizations direct or indirect?
3. Is there a relationship between the moments of direct characterization and indirect characterization?
4. How do they change from beginning to end?
5. What is the function of the minor characters?
6. Do some characters see themselves differently from the way readers see them? If so, how?

One-Pager

Write a one paragraph character analysis for “My Purple Scented Novel.”

- Find an example of indirect characterization (one that we didn’t discuss in class)
- Compose a clear claim about a character trait (derived from your examples) and that trait’s significance to the story
- Use the example and at least one other quotation with context, lead-ins, and parenthetical citations
- Analysis that includes interpretation connecting the claim in the topic sentence to the quotations
- Remember What? How? Why?

Point of View/ Perspective

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What to pay attention to, note, highlight, reflect on...

- Physical situation of the narrator- time & place (ruminative chronicler- immediate participant- passive witness)
- Qualifications & Limitations
- Persuasive purpose- does the narrator have a hidden agenda?
- Reliability- do textual clues help explain whether you can trust the narrator or not?

One-Pager

Write about Point of View in “The Midnight Zone” or “Cathedral”

Your paragraph should include

- A topic sentence that makes a claim
- Two quotations w/ context that provide evidence for your claim
- Analysis connecting your topic sentence claim with your quotations
- A concluding sentence

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One-Pager

Write about symbolism “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Your paragraph should include

- A topic sentence that makes a claim
- Two quotations w/ context that provide evidence for your claim
- Analysis connecting your topic sentence claim with your quotations
- A concluding sentence

Setting

- Time & Place
- “the named, identified, concrete, exact and exacting, therefore credible, gathering spot for all that has been felt, is about to be experienced”
- Nation, town, date, time, weather, season, etc
- sights, sounds, textures, tones, colors, shapes...

“A Worn Path”

- Time?
- Place?
- sights, sounds, textures, tones, colors, shapes...

Questions to consider...

1. What is the geographical setting? The time, place, weather, season? Why is it important?
2. What historical context or social environment is being depicted, and what background information is required to understand the situation?
3. What details of the setting does the author use to create atmosphere or mood?
4. How does the setting seem to relate to the themes?

One-Pager

Write about setting in “The Swimmer” or “A Worn Path”

Your paragraph should include

- A topic sentence that makes a claim
- Two quotations w/ context that provide evidence for your claim
- Analysis connecting your topic sentence claim with your quotations
- A concluding sentence