Elements of Literature

**Characterization** - the development of characters in the story

**Plot** - the events that occur in a story

**Theme** - the central idea or lesson about life a story conveys

**Setting** - where and when a story takes place

**Conflict** - a struggle or problem a character must overcome

**Mood** - the feeling a reader gets from a story

**Style** - the way an author uses language to write a story

**Tone** - the author’s voice or attitude about what he or she writes

**Point of View** - who the narrator is and what information he or she provides

8 Ways to Analyze a Character

1. Physical Description - anything you can see that provides clues as to who he or she is including how the person carries himself, looks like, dresses like, etc.

2. Background - past experiences that shape who he becomes such as skills he has, his education, where he’s from, or what he knows how to do.

3. Personality - What kind of person is he? Look for actions that illustrate this. A person’s personality usually guides how he responds to a situation.

4. Relationships - How the character interacts with other people. Does he get along with other people easily, or is it difficult for him to form friendships?

5. Words and Actions - What he says and does, and what others say or tell us about him. (Are they different to his face and behind his back?) Watch for topics the person talks about a lot.

6. Motivation - Why does a character do what he does? This can include money, fear, desire for fame, or a need to prove one’s self. (What they want to get or get away from.)

7. Conflict - man vs. man, man vs. self, man vs. nature, man vs. society

8. Change - How does the character change?