

Stock Characters

1	Protagonist	The main character, e.g. Harry Potter.	6	Comic Relief	A character that lightens the mood in dramatic stories, e.g. Neville Longbottom.
2	Antagonist	The villain in the story, or the thing that is stopping the protagonist achieving their goal, e.g. Voldemort.	7	Father Figure	A wise, mentor character that can be relied on by the protagonist and offers guidance, e.g. Dumbledore.
3	Deuteragonist	The second main character, usually a companion or 'side-kick' to the protagonist, e.g. Ron Weasley.	8	Hag	An evil old woman, often a witch, who typically hates children e.g. Bellatrix Lestrange.
4	Love Interest	The protagonist's object of desire, e.g. Ginny Weasley.	9	Foil	A character that represents the opposite qualities to the protagonist, e.g. Draco Malfoy.
5	Confidante	The protagonist trusts them with their life and their problems, e.g. Hermione Granger.	10	Gentle Giant	A caring character, despite their intimidating appearance, e.g. Hagrid.

Story Conventions

1	Character Goal	What the protagonist needs to accomplish by the end of the story.	6	Inciting Incident	The first moment of conflict that kick-starts the story.
2	Conflict	Anything that stops the protagonist achieving their goal.	7	Reversals	Any new challenge for the protagonist.
3	Setting	Where and when the story happens.	8	Breaking Point	When it seems impossible for the protagonist to achieve their goal.
4	Exposition	Any important 'back-story' that needs to be understood.	9	Climax	The most dramatic part of the story, where the protagonist faces their ultimate challenge.
5	Equilibrium	This is the 'normal' state of affairs for the protagonist, where they are at peace.	10	Resolution	When the protagonist achieves their goal and the equilibrium is restored.

Common Themes

1	Good vs. Evil	5	Power
2	Courage	6	Friendship
3	Redemption	7	Growing Up
4	Love	8	Death

Cultural Function

1	Lessons	Morals, origins/creation and cautionary tales.
2	History	Wisdom, events and culture passed from one generation to the next.
3	Entertainment	Helping us escape our day-to-day lives and feel emotionally moved.
4	Commentary	Critiquing an aspect of society in order to show its flaws.

Key Vocabulary

1	Narrative	The story.
2	Character Arc	How a character develops from the beginning of a story to the end.
3	Theme	One of the 'big ideas' that run throughout the story and what it is <i>really</i> about.
4	Symbolism	Using an object, character, action or setting to represent a theme.
5	Allegory	A story that reflects a wider idea, such as a religion, philosophy or political idea.
6	Myth	A traditional symbolic story that explores ideas about creation and nature. Myths have no known factual basis.
7	Legend	An ancient story that is thought to have some basis in fact but many of the details are now exaggerated.
8	Fables and Parable	A short story with a moral message. Fables include talking animals or objects.
9	Epic Poem	A long narrative poem that describes the adventures of a hero.
10	Bildungsroman Novel	A story that follows a character from birth to adulthood.