WHAT IS FICTION?

IMAGINARY STORIES WITH IMAGINARY CHARACTERS

Authors may write fiction as stories, novels, plays, and/or films. Fiction is written in a variety of delightful genres, such as action/adventure, coming-of-age, fantasy, horror, historical/realistic stories, human interest, mystery/crime, romance, science fiction, survival, and others. Everyone can enjoy fiction.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF FICTION?

- **To entertain**
- **To inform**
- **To learn**
- **To facilitate memory**
- **To show and teach empathy**
- **To develop imagination**
- **To encourage visualization**
- **To experience different perspectives**
- **To better understand ourselves and others**
- **To increase emotional intelligence**
- **To improve problem-solving ability**
- **To teach morality**
- **To make abstract concepts easier to understand**
- **To relax and/or escape from personal stresses**
- **To perpetuate the culture and values of a civilization**

WHY DO PEOPLE READ FICTION?

Reading is so enjoyable that people have been listening to and reading stories for centuries. Individuals may read at home, in a library, on public transportation, at the beach, in the park, or almost anywhere. Reading is a safe way to relax and learn.

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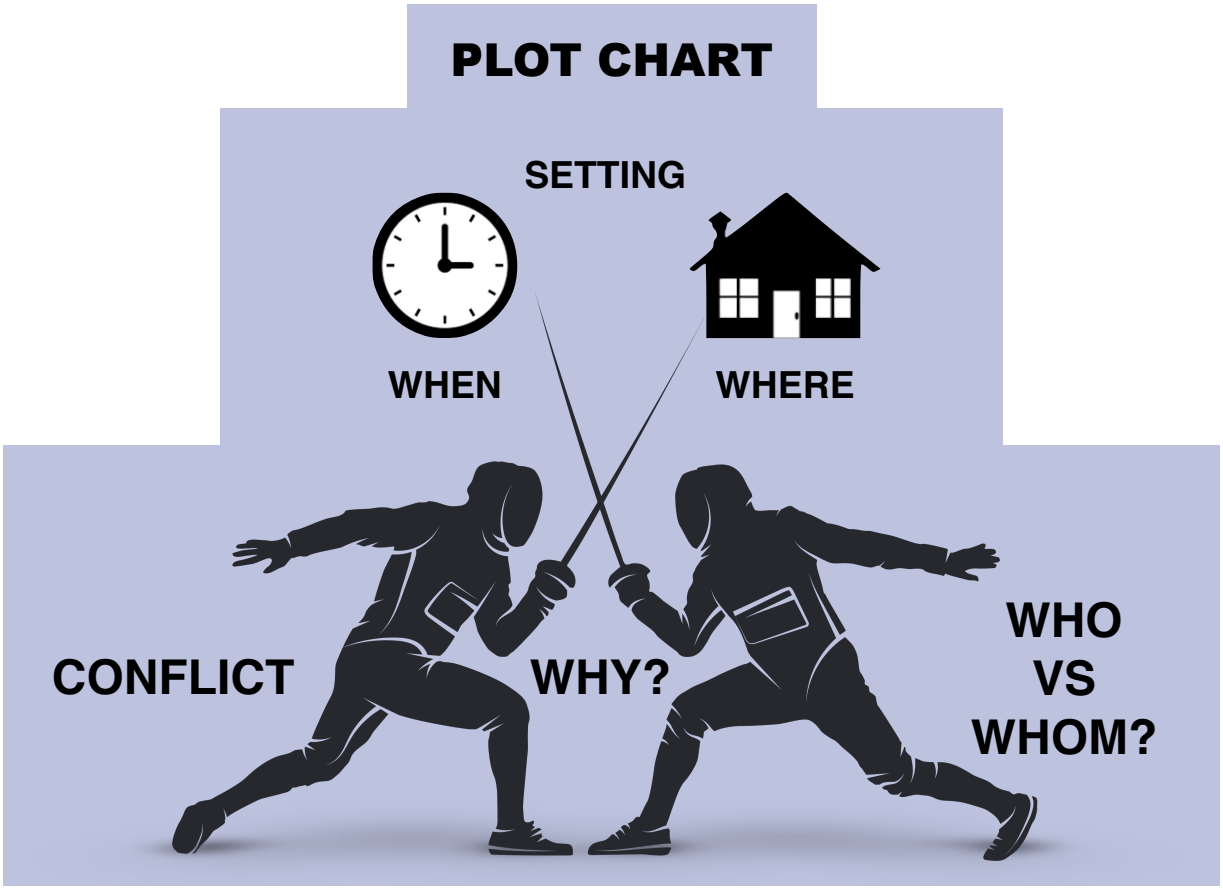

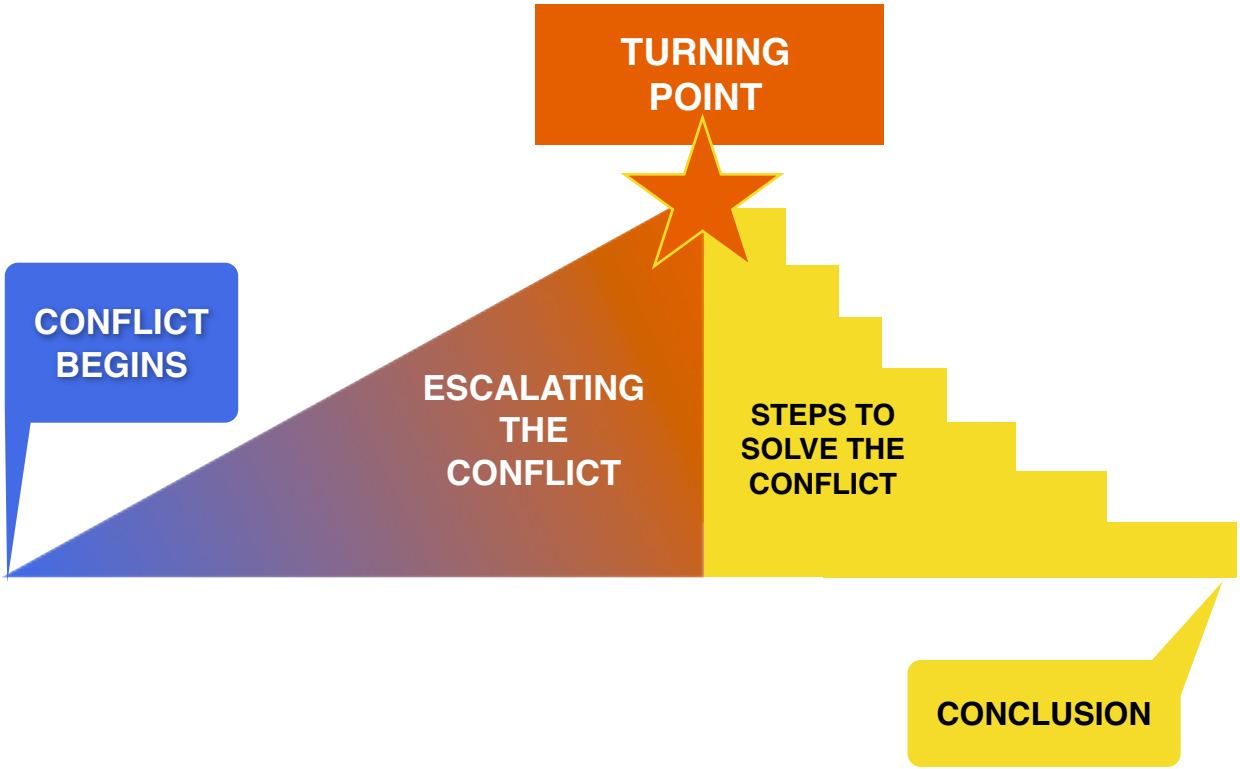

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TAKING NOTES ON CHAPTER 1 OF A NOVEL

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

GENRE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES IN BOOK: _____ **NUMBER OF CHAPTERS:** ____

Figure out how many pages or chapters you need to read each day to complete the assignment on time.

PERSON: I OR YOU OR HE, SHE, IT _____

CHARACTERS & IDENTITY: _____

_____

_____

CONFLICT: WHO IS AGAINST WHOM? WHY?_____

_____

WHERE, THE PLACE: _____

WHEN, THE TIME: _____

CONFLICT: WHO IS AGAINST WHOM? WHY?

Sometimes, a story begins with an Inciting Force which appears to be the major conflict because it causes chaos in the protagonist's life. However, a more serious problem emerges, and that challenge becomes the true conflict of the story, novel, or play. If the story contains an Inciting Force, the real conflict may be delayed until chapter two.

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DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Drawing conclusions means making logical, evidence-based decisions. The conclusions are based upon text evidence, the reader's prior knowledge, and inferred meanings.

STRATEGIES FOR DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

DO ACTIONS MATCH WORDS?

If a character agrees to help his neighbors clean up after a storm but does not show up, is he dishonest? Is he sick? However, if the character continually promises without delivering, then the other characters and the reader conclude he is untrustworthy. Actions reveal character traits more accurately than words.

DOES APPEARANCE MATCH CHARACTER?

Is the character in the story pretending to be someone else? A character dressed in a police uniform acts peculiarly. Another character who speaks to the policeman describes his appearance and behavior. From these impressions based on actions, appearance, and dialogue, the reader can determine the officer's authenticity.

DOES THE CHARACTER LIE OR LIE BY OMISSION?

If a character repeatedly says, "I don't remember," the reader should question whether this character is hiding or covering up something. Evidence such as a photo, a video, or a sworn statement could clarify the truth. The reader needs some facts to draw a conclusion.

Example: Sam told Mom that he went to John's house after school. Sam left out that they stopped for a beer. A photo from another student proved Sam told a half-truth. Evidence confirmed the lie.

DOES AN ANACHRONISM INTERFERE WITH COMPREHENSION?

An anachronism means a misplacement in time of a person, object, action, or custom. For example, Dana cried because she was rejected from astronaut training in 1860. Since space programs began in the 1960s, this historical error creates confusion due to an anachronism.

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