

## Elements of a Short Story/Active Reading Strategies/Genres

What are the seven elements of a short story? List and briefly describe each of them.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.

What are the six active reading strategies? List and briefly describe each of them.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

What are the genre categories of stories?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

## Elements of a Short Story/Active Reading Strategies/Genres

Using the answers from page 1, answer the following questions:

1. Which story element tells what is going on in a story?
2. Which element describes the struggle between two characters or forces?
3. If tone describes the attitude and impression that an author takes, whose feeling does the mood represent?
4. Which two genres are co-dependent?
5. Which genre tells the life of someone other than the author?
6. Which genre tells the life of the author him/herself?
7. Which active reading strategy helps answer why and how questions throughout a story?
8. Which active reading strategy assists the reader in clarifying unknown terms?
9. Which element helps solve the conflict with a good or bad result?
10. Which element has the most impact and influence on the character's environment surrounding the conflict?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

One way to use active reading strategies is to record information, while you read, in a chart. Use the chart and active reading strategies to analyze a short story. You may copy this chart in your notes and use it for other selections.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

Element:	Description:
1.Character(s): Who or what is the story about?	
2. Setting: place/time, environment, atmosphere of the story	
3. Conflict: What is the main problem in the story?	
4. Plot: What is happening in the story? What is the story about? This happened, then this happened, and so on.	
5.Resolution: How and when was the conflict resolved? What is a good or bad outcome?	
6. Tone/Mood: What was the author's attitude towards the subject? What kind of emotion or feeling do you get after reading the story?	
7.Point of View: Who is telling or narrating the story? Is one of the characters acting as a narrator (first person), or is it as if someone is looking at them and telling what is going on (third person)?	

Directions: Answer the following questions regarding the short story elements of your selection. Answer in complete sentences.

Tip: When answering direct questions, one way to answer in complete sentences and guide you to stay on topic is to restate part of the question.

1. How did the setting influence the conflict?

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2. Had the setting been different, would the outcome of the conflict have changed? Explain.

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3. How was the conflict resolved?

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4. Did the character's traits influence his/her reaction to the conflict?  
Explain.

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5. What were the details that you as a reader connected to, and how?  
Explain.

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Directions: Using “mini” Venn Diagrams, answer the following comparison questions regarding short story and genre elements.

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1. How are **autobiography** and **biography** similar and how are they different?
2. How are **science fiction** and **fantasy** similar and how are they different?
3. How are **fiction** and **non-fiction** similar and how are they different?
4. How are tone and mood similar and different?
5. How are **fantasy** and **fiction** similar and different?

## Elements of a Short Story/Active Reading Strategies(**Answer Key**)

What are the seven elements of a short story? List and briefly describe each of them. (**descriptions will vary**)

- a. **character(s)**
- b. **setting**
- c. **conflict**
- d. **plot**
- e. **resolution**
- f. **tone/mood**
- g. **point of view**

What are the six active reading strategies? List and briefly describe each of them.

- a. **preview**
- b. **connect**
- c. **predict**
- d. **question**
- e. **clarify**
- f. **summarize**

What are the genre categories for stories?

- a. **fiction/realistic fiction**
- b. **nonfiction**
- c. **biography**
- d. **autobiography**
- e. **fantasy**
- f. **science fiction**

## Elements of a Short Story/Active Reading Strategies(**Answer Key**)

Using the answers from page 1, answer the following questions:

1. Which story element tells what is going on in a story? **Plot**
2. Which element describes the struggle between two characters or forces? **conflict**
3. If tone describes the attitude and impression that an author takes, whose feeling does the mood represent? **reader**
4. Which two genres are co-dependent and interact? **Science fiction and Fantasy**
5. Which genre tells the life of someone else other than the author? **Biography**
6. Which genre tells the life of the author him/herself? **autobiography**
7. Which active reading strategy helps answer why and how questions throughout a story? **questioning**
8. Which active reading strategy assists the reader in clarifying unknown terms? **clarification**
9. Which element helps solve the conflict with a good or bad result? **resolution**
10. Which element has the most impact and influence on the character's environment surrounding the conflict? **setting**

Answers will vary for the remaining part of the lesson, depending on the text the student has selected.

The mini-Venn questions also make a great discussion topics.