

Lit. Elem.: Story Elements

Term	Definition	Example
Setting	the time and place of the story	Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1960s
Theme	central message, concern, or purpose of a literary work	Importance of friendship, Personal identity, Effects of poverty
Flashback	when an earlier episode, conversation, or event is inserted into the story	Ponyboy's story of what happened to Johnny
Foreshadowing	the author's use of clues to hint at what might happen later in the story	<p>"Things gotta get better, I figured. They couldn't get worse. I was wrong." (52)</p> <p>"He would kill the next person who jumped him." (34)</p>
Suspense	the excitement and anxiety readers feel while waiting for something to happen	The character is walking up the stairs to investigate a noise.
Motif	an object, idea, or symbol that repeatedly shows up throughout a literary work	Ponyboy describes people's eyes

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