

Y8 T4: Short Stories

Disciplinary Vocabulary

Words to explore tension and atmosphere in a text:

intensity
impending
anticipating
building
declining
deteriorating
waning

Target Vocabulary

The reader is...

intrigued
perturbed
uneasy
transported
charmed
exhilarated

Crafting Sentences

Thesis statement, authorial intent and influence, language exploration, links and development, character journey, **text structure and tension**:

...creates **tension** for the reader...

...**builds** to the moment when...

This is a **dramatic climax** for the reader...

In the **opening**, the writer establishes...

...is a **moment of shift** because...

Grammar Knowledge

declarative sentence: a sentence that makes a statement, provides a fact, offers an explanation, or conveys information. E.g. *Animal Farm* was written by George Orwell

interrogative sentence: a sentence that asks a question e.g. Is it cold outside?

imperative sentence: a sentence that gives advice, a direct command or an instruction – they typically start with a verb e.g. Close the door.

exclamatory sentence: a sentence that expresses a strong emotion, often ending in an exclamation mark. E.g. We won!

The Literary Present

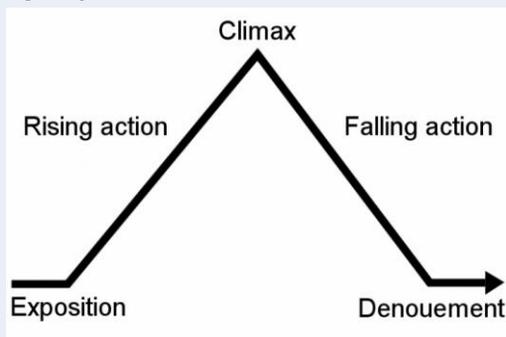
In literary analysis, we ALWAYS talk about the text and the writer as if they are in the present tense, even if they were writing hundreds of years ago.

e.g. Shakespeare **is** implying that...

The Capulets **are** in conflict with the Montagues...

Form & Structure

Freytag's Pyramid:



narrative: a spoken or written account of connected events; a story

encounter story: where the protagonist is confronted by something unexpected

classic story: a story which ends with the defeat of the antagonist after a period of struggle

self-realisation story: focus more on the inner drama of a character who learns something new about themselves or others

Genre & Intent

Victorian Ghost Stories

Charles Dickens' 'The Signalman' is a classic example of a Victorian Ghost story – these were very popular during the 19th Century. Building **tension** through the use of **supernatural** and **unusual** events, **bleak and isolated places**, **darkness** and the **cold** was a common trope for writers at the time.

One of the most famous Victorian Ghost Stories ever written was 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.