

Important Terms

Throughout the course we will discuss these elements — be sure you are familiar with their meaning and function.

protagonist: main character in story; focal point of the story

irony: an event deliberately contrary to what the reader expects.

dramatic irony: the reader knows something the character does not; the protagonist's actions have significant meaning only known to the reader.

foreshadowing: hints of a future development through elements of the story

motifs: reoccurring symbols which appear throughout the story

exposition: establishment of the setting, prepares the fictional world for the reader. Some novels expand on this technique a lot: *The Hobbit* for instance has an elaborate opening describing the home of the main character Bilbo in great detail. Others are short.

climax: the heightened tension of conflict at its peak and results in the **conclusion/resolution**.

in medias res: latin: in the middle of, Ray Bradbury's "October Game" uses this technique.

drama: main focal point of conflict in story

flashback: a scene relived in memory

epiphany: moment of clarity, sudden understanding, insight