



revised: 08.08.13 || English 1302: Composition II || D. Glen Smith, instructor

## Literary Devices & Terminologies

- plot: main course of action
- setting: the landscape of the story
- **conflict:** clash of opposing views, needs, actions
- protagonist: main character; focal point of action
- **antagonist:** a person the protagonist struggles against, or competes with;

an adversary

• **climax:** the ultimate scene of action; the decisive moment in a novel or play,

results in the conclusion/resolution

• **subplots:** minor secondary story lines behind the scene of main action

## Literary Devices & Terminologies

- points of view: (voice/narration) thoughts and feelings which motivate story
- **irony:** an event deliberately contrary to what the reader expects
- **foreshadowing:** hints of a future development through elements of the story
- **motifs:** reoccurring symbols which appear throughout the story
- **paradox:** conflicting/contradictory statement
- **exposition:** establishment of setting, prepares the fictional world for reader
- *in medias res*: latin: "in the middle of." Many short stories use this technique.