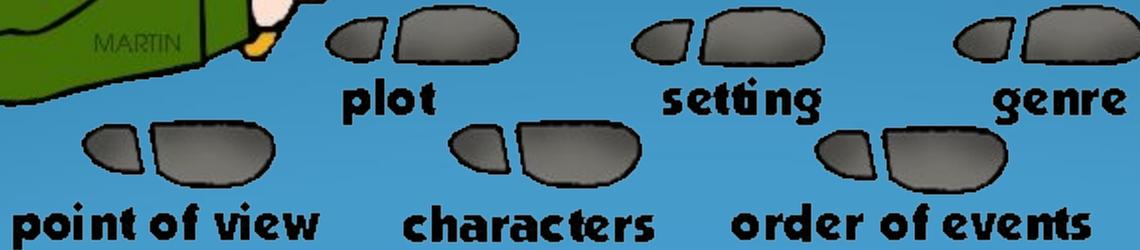


What Is a Story?

Elements of Fiction



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Plot

Plot...

- Describes the events of a story

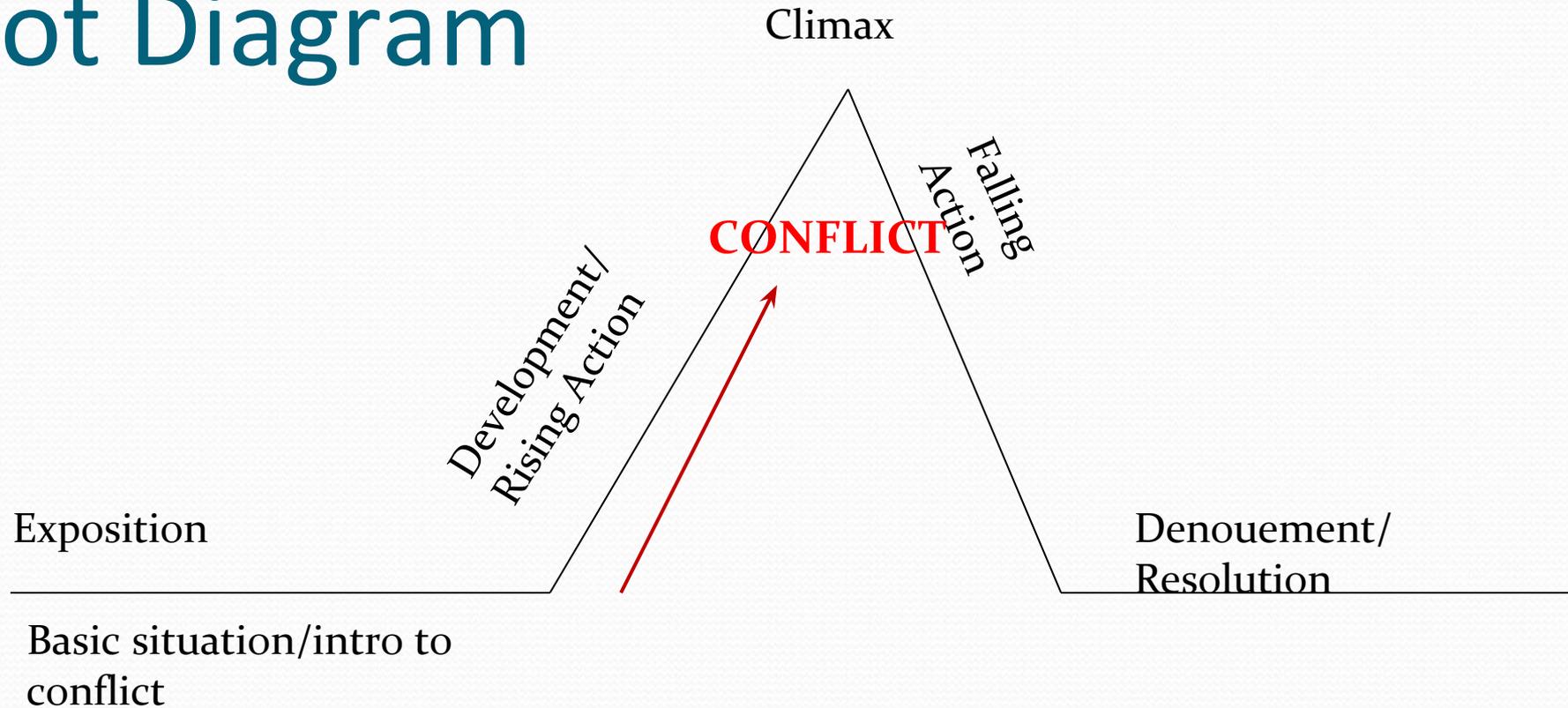
Building Blocks of Plot

- Rising Action
 - Actions that occur because of the **conflict**
 - Series of “complications” develop
- Climax
 - Most exciting, “highest” point of the story
 - Outcome of the conflict

Building Blocks of Plot

- Falling Action
 - Action that occurs after the climax
 - Usually taking steps towards solving the conflict
- Resolution/Denouement
 - Conflict is fully resolved
 - End of the story
 - “Happily ever after” moment

Plot Diagram



A Closer Look at Conflict

- Conflict:
 - A struggle between opposing forces
 - The “problem” of the story
 - Moves the plot forward (without conflict, we have no story!)
- Types of Conflict (may be more than 1 per story):
 - External Conflict
 - Character vs. Character/Society/Nature
 - Conflict with an external/outside force
 - Internal Conflict
 - Character vs. self
 - Conflict occurs within their own mind or conscience



Other Plot Techniques

- Foreshadowing
 - Hint/clue about what might happen later in the story

Order of Literature

- Chronological Order
 - Story is written the order the events actually occurred
- Spatial Order
 - Story is written by describing the location of things (top to bottom, right to left)
- Order of Importance
- Cause & Effect



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Characters

Types of Characters



- Protagonist
 - Seen as the main character/focus of the story
 - The character in conflict who must solve a problem
- Antagonist
 - The character or force that blocks the protagonist from achieving their goal
 - Not always a “villain,” but gets in the protagonist’s way

How do we learn about characters?

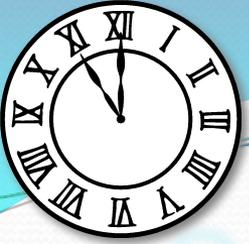
- A writer reveals what a character is like (characterization) and how they change throughout the story
- Direct Characterization
 - Writer tells us what the character is like
 - *“Mr. Bumble was a great person”*
- Indirect Characterization
 - Shows us what a character is like by describing character: what character 1. says, 2. does, and 3. what others say about that character
 - *“Mr. Bumble is helping me with my garden,” said Patricia.*

Analyzing Characters

- Dynamic Character
 - Character changes by the end of the story
 - Learned something new, see the world differently, etc.
- Static Character
 - Characters that remain exactly the same at the end as they were in beginning

Setting





Setting

Time and place are where the action occurs

Details that describe:

- ✓ Scenery
- ✓ Customs
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Dialects
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Time of day
- ✓ Time of year
- ✓ Geography



The Functions of a Setting

- To create a mood or atmosphere
- To show a reader a different way of life
- To make action seem more real
- To be the source of conflict or struggle
- To symbolize an idea

- Above all, the setting works to **enhance the plot**

Irony

- An expression/situation where the result is *opposite*, or *contradictory* to, what was intended/meant/expected.
- Examples:
 - Verbal irony: say one thing and mean another
 - “It sure is a nice day for a picnic,” in the middle of a rainstorm
 - Situational irony: result is *opposite* of what was intended
 - You laugh at your friend for stepping in the mud, only to then step in a puddle yourself
 - Dramatic irony: we know what’s going to happen but the character doesn’t
 - We know that the wolf is in Grandma’s clothes, but Little Red Riding Hood doesn’t

Mistake-ing Irony

- It is very easy to mistake irony, and misidentify it
 - Alania Morissette's song Ironic
- Let's see...Ironic or not?
 - The name of Britain's biggest dog (until it died recently) was Tiny...
 - YES, ironic
 - A man is incarcerated in a prison he used to be the warden of...
 - YES, ironic
 - "It's like rain on your wedding day."
 - NO, not ironic.
 - It might be ironic if it's raining on your wedding day in the desert. Or snowing on a wedding day in July.
 - Drawing trees on paper...
 - This one could go either way,. Irony is somewhat subjective, so for something like this context matters

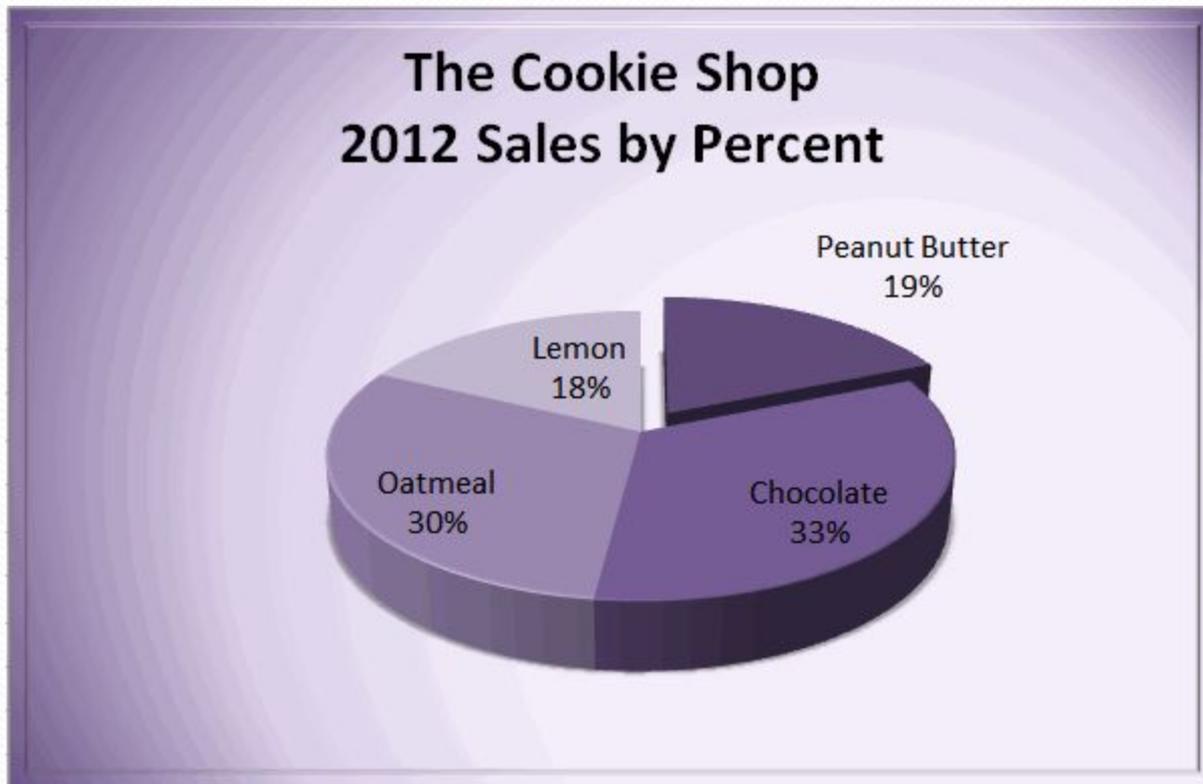
Always be careful to distinguish between *sarcasm* and *irony*. They are not always the same thing!

Types of Writing

- Narrative Writing
 - Tells a story
- Expository Writing
 - An essay that explains, defines or interprets
- Reflective Writing
 - Presents the author's feelings/thoughts

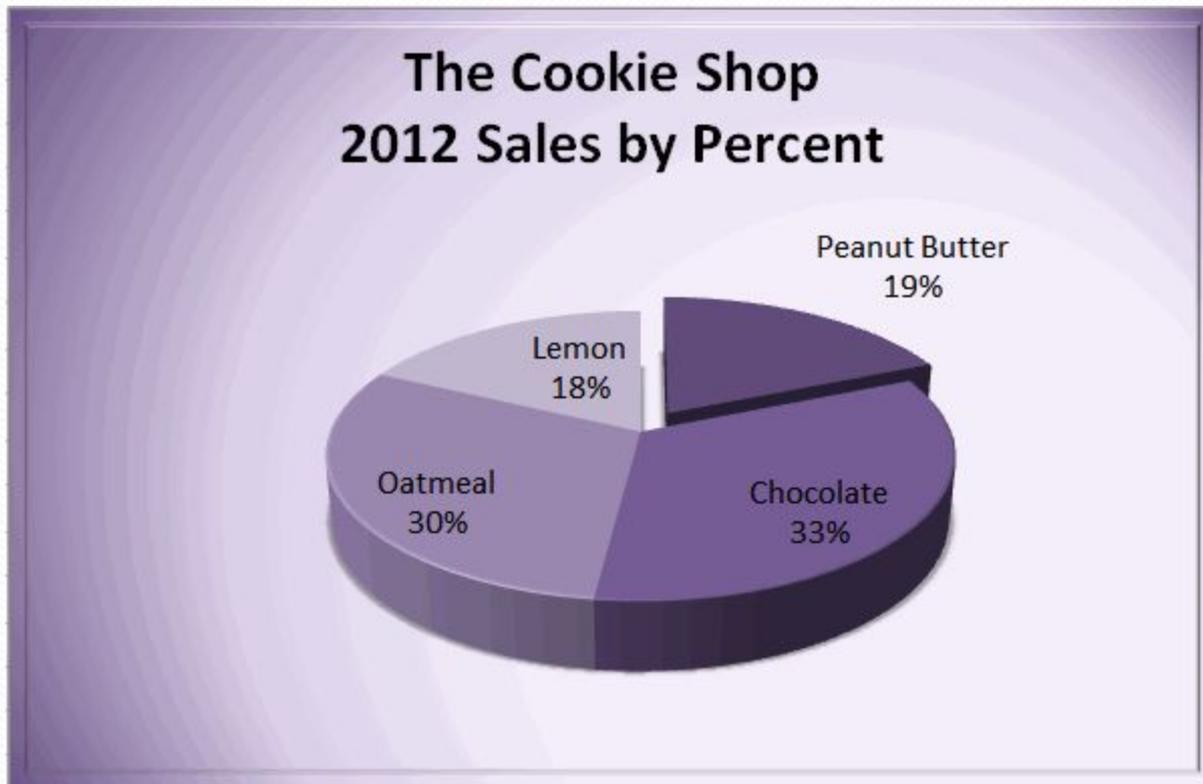
Reading for Information

- What is the purpose of this chart?



Reading for Information

- Which type of cookie is the most popular?



Reading for Information

- When does the last bus depart from the post office?

Klauer Campus Bus Route Schedule  

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURE							
Guadalupe Lot	8:15 am	9:25 am	11:15 am	2:15 pm	3:25 pm	4:30 pm	5:33 pm
Taos County Administration	8:22 am	9:34 am	11:22 am	2:22 pm	3:31 pm	4:36 pm	5:40 pm
Ranchos de Taos Post Office	8:30 am	9:40 am	11:30 am	2:30 pm	3:40 pm	4:46 pm	5:48 pm
UNM Klauer Campus	8:45 am	9:55 am	11:45 am	2:45 pm	3:55 pm	5:00 pm	5:55 pm

Bus runs Monday through Thursday

Friday schedule runs up to 12:20 pm

Reading for Information

- When is the earliest I can get on the bus at the Guadalupe Lot? What time will it get me to the Post office?

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