

Name _____

LITERARY ELEMENTS ----DEFINITIONS

Characters	<p>The people who carry the story forward. (major and minor) The main character must change within the story.</p>
Setting	<p>Time and place of action within a story. (ex. Time of year, time of day; country, state building, home)</p>
Plot	<p>The description of action containing: 1) Beginning- introduces the characters, setting, and problem 2) Rising action- a series of "sequential" events. The character takes action to solve problem 3)Climax- the MOST exciting part-the tension is at its highest point-problem ALMOST resolved 4)falling action- problem is solved, wraps up in a BRIEF ending tying up loose ends; gives a sense of completion</p>
Main Idea	<p>In a few brief sentences- what happens in the story. It can allude to the theme. This is what you would see on the back of novels-the brief description of the book</p>

Theme

The author's **PURPOSE** for writing, the underlying message about life; huge overriding ideas that transcend time (see handout with examples)