**ELA 8 ~ Vocabulary List ~ Story Elements**

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1. **setting** ~ time and place in which it happens

a. **time period ~** Civil War, Holocaust, or in the present

b. **duration ~** span of time (hours, days, weeks, months, or years)

c. **geographical location ~** where it is located on a map

d. **cultural environment ~** civil unrest, peace, war, or utopian or dystopian society

e. **physical conditions ~** mountains, snow, jungle, beach, heat, extreme conditions

2. **character** ~ a person or animal who takes part in the action of a literary work

a. **major character** ~ plays an important role

b. **minor character** ~ plays a lesser role

c. **one-dimensional/flat character** ~ reveals one character trait

d. **three-dimensional character** ~ have complexities of an actual human being

e. **static character** ~ stays the same

f. **dynamic character** ~ changes because of events in story

3. **protagonist** ~ the main character in a story

4. **antagonist** ~ character who struggle with/against the protagonist or main character

5. **characterization** ~ the act of creating or describing a character: what they say, do, or think

**Characterization Acronyms: ASTAR and STEAL**

**A ~ Appearance S ~ Speech**

**S ~ Speech T ~ Thoughts**

**T ~ Thoughts E ~ Effect on Others**

**A ~ Actions A ~ Actions**

**R ~ Reactions from Others L ~ Looks**

6. **dialogue** ~ conversation involving two or more people or characters

(dialogue is enclosed in quotation marks)

“Have you gone to school here before?” I asked.

“Yes, I went here last year.”

7. **monologue** ~ a speech given by one character

8. **point of view** ~ the vantage point from which a story is told

a. **first person** ~ the narrator uses the pronouns I and we and is part of or witness to the action

b. **second person** ~ the narrator uses you

c. **third person** ~ the narrator is outside the action and uses he, she, it, and they

d. **limited** ~ restricted knowledge – everything is seen through the eyes of a single character

e. **omniscient** ~ knows everything – the narrator knows everything and can see into the minds

of all the characters

9. **conflict** ~ struggle between two people or things in a literary work

a. **internal conflict** ~ struggle that takes place within a character

b. **external conflict** ~ struggle that takes place with an outside force

c. **man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society, man versus supernatural,**

and **man versus self** (internal conflict)

10. **genre** ~ type of literary work – main types: drama, fiction, poetry, and nonfiction

a. **realistic fiction** ~ could actually happen

b. **historical fiction** ~ based partly on actual historical events

c. **science fiction** ~ imaginative literature based on scientific principles

d. **mystery** ~ detective story – deals with a puzzling crime

e. **fantasy** ~ a very unrealistic or imaginative story

f. **folktale** ~ tall tales or fairy tales are stories passed by word of mouth that include larger

than life characters and plotlines

g. **western** ~ set in western United States during the second half of 1800s frontier lives

h. **romance** ~ tale about legendary figures or love in an exotic setting

i. **adventure** ~ the main character is on a quest to find or achieve something

j. **non-fiction** ~ about real people, places, things, and events

k. **biography** ~ book about a person’s life written by another

l. **autobiography** ~ book written by a person about his own life

11. **foreshadow** ~ the act of hinting at events that will happen later

12. **flashback** ~ part of a story, poem, or play that presents events that happened at an earlier time

13. **irony** ~ a difference between appearance and reality

a. **dramatic irony** ~ something is known by the reader or audience but is not known by the

characters

b. **situational irony** ~ an event that contradicts the expectations of a literary work

c. **verbal irony** ~ a statement that says one thing but means the opposite (sarcasm)

14. **author’s purpose** ~ Why? persuade, inform, entertain, educate, etc.

15. **mood or atmosphere** ~ the feeling a reader gets from the story

16. **tone** ~ the author’s voice or attitude about what he or she writes (word choice/imagery/

figurative language)

17. **theme or lesson** ~ main idea or message in a literary work

18. **plot** ~ a series of events related to a central conflict or struggle

**Parts of the plot:**

19. **exposition/introduction** ~ part of a plot that introduces the setting and major characters

20. **inciting incident** ~ the event that introduces the central conflict or struggle

21. **rising action** ~ develops the conflict to a high point of intensity

22. **climax** ~ highest point of interest or suspense, sometimes signals the turning point of the action

23. **falling action** ~ all the events that follow the climax

24. **resolution/denouement** ~ point in a poem, story, or play which the central conflict or struggle

ends