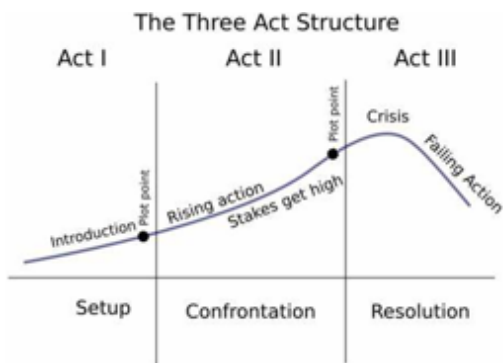


Storytelling is a very human attribute, an instinct, a need, and an exchange that sets us apart from other animals. Humans (as in *Homo sapiens*) are at least 200,000 years old as a species. Spoken language has existed for at least 50,000 years (potentially longer) and written communication for around 5000 years. Humans tell stories to make sense of things, to communicate, to survive and endure, and to satisfy their curiosity. Stories are a solution to the problem of how to translate knowing into telling. They help us condense our thoughts and make them more appealing and memorable. Stories are written to entertain but often include morals or messages, which the writer intends the reader to think about, that are presented through the story.

Three Act Narrative Structure:

Stories are traditionally arranged into three sections:

- Setup (exposition)
- Confrontation (rising action)
- Resolution (crisis and falling action)



Even fantasy stories set in entirely different worlds must be believable to an extent based on the logical sequencing of events and the 'rules' of that fictional world.

The action of a story must link together logically. The setup must inform the confrontation and the confrontation must lead to a believable resolution.

The unseen prose students read in the exam will be an extract from a story, usually the beginning (setup) or the middle (rising action). It is, therefore, very important to consider **where** in the story the extract comes from because it will provide clues about the intended effects of the narrative students are presented with.

Setup – The beginning introduction to a story that establishes the main character(s), setting and the emerging conflicts through exposition.

Exposition – This is important information the narrator must include in order for the narrative to make sense. Exposition is often provided in the beginning of a story but skilful writers may include elements of exposition at different points in a narrative, often for intended effect.

Confrontation – The rising action of the story where the main character is confronted with and tries to overcome challenge(s) established in the setup. The confrontation often makes up the middle of the story.

Rising action – This is the build-up of conflict resulting through decisions made by the main character or events that happen to them.

Climax – The most exciting or important point of a narrative, which is built through the rising action.

Falling action – The series of events that occur showing how the conflict is resolved and how characters deal with the consequences of the climax.

Resolution – The end of the story where the outcome(s) of the main character's actions are revealed. The resolution often includes denouement, which means all the plot points are tied up.

Narrative – A spoken or written account of connected events: a story. Narrative includes all aspects, which contribute toward the complete story.

Narrator – The character or voice who recounts the events of a narrative.

Characters are the people (or animals) who act and speak in the story.

Dialogue – A conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play or film.

Setting is the place and time where the story happens.

Plot is the sequence of events that make up the story.

Conflict is the problem or challenge that the main character faces.

Theme is the main idea or message that the story conveys.

Point of view is the perspective from which the story is told. Stories may be written in the first, second or third person (but mostly likely first or third person for GCSE unseen prose).

First Person Narrative: In first-person narration, the narrator is a person in the story, telling the story from their own point of view.

It also means that impressions and descriptions are coloured by that character's opinions, mood, past experiences, or even their warped perceptions of what they see and hear.

Second Person Narrative: Second-person narration is a little-used technique of narrative in which the action is driven by a character ascribed to the reader, one known as *you*. The reader is immersed into the narrative as a character involved in the story. The narrator describes what "you" do and lets you into your own thoughts and background.

Third Person Omniscient Narrative: *Omniscient* means "all-knowing," and likewise an omniscient narrator knows every character's thoughts, feelings, and motivations even if that character does not reveal any of those things to the other characters.

Third Person Limited Narrative: In third-person limited narration, the narrator still exists outside the events of the story, but does not know the motivations or thoughts of all the characters. Rather, one character is the driver of the story, and the reader is given a closer peek into that character's psyche than the others.

Third-Person Objective Narrative: In third-person objective narration, the narrator reports the events that take place without knowing the motivations or thoughts of any of the characters. We know little about what drives them until we hear them speak or observe their actions. The resulting tone is often matter-of-fact, not coloured by any opinions or commentary, nor of knowledge of what takes place outside the scene.

Anaphora – The intentional repetition of words at the beginning of sentences, clauses or phrases, e.g. *'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...'* Anaphora is also the use of a word referring back to a word used earlier in a text to avoid repetition, e.g. *the pronouns he, she, it and they and the verb 'do' in 'I like it and so do they.*

Cyclical structure – A narrative that returns to ideas, which were established in the set up.

Tone and style are the attitude and voice of the writer or narrator.

Descriptive writing uses sensory details to create vivid imagery. The five senses are sight, sound, smell, touch and taste. Descriptive writers will focus on language choices and structure with the intention to create emotion in their writing.

Vocabulary refers to the intentional word choices made by the writer to create effects.

Imagery refers to the intentional use of non-literal language such as simile and metaphor to create effects. Writers consider how to use tenor, vehicle and ground to craft their own imagery. They also consider which details in an image (or other stimulus) are worthy and relevant tenors. Writers consider how to craft imagery into their writing to maintain a consistent emotive tone.

Motif – A recurring element or idea that symbolises a theme in a literary work, *e.g. the sound of bells in A Christmas Carol*.

Simile – A type of metaphor involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid. Similes often use ‘like’ or ‘as’ in the comparison.

Metaphor – a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. Metaphors may be broken down into three main components: the tenor, vehicle and ground.

Extended metaphor – A version of a metaphor that extends over the course of multiple lines, paragraphs, or stanzas of prose or poetry.

Personification – The attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human. Or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.

Descriptive writing must have a **sequence** where the writing is:

- Logical – must be possible within the frame of reference
- Consistent – it cannot jump ahead too much (temporally consistent)
- Write about the next moment – not what happens later (temporally consistent)

Cohesive – Literally, means ‘united’, ‘sticks’ or ‘works together’. Concerning English, a ‘cohesive’ text’s content all links together in a sensible way, which helps to build understanding of it. ‘Cohesive devices’ are uses of language which help to make a text more cohesive and build cohesion.

Juxtaposition – Contrasting ideas, which are placed near to each other to create an effect.

Detail – An individual fact or item. Also, to give full information about. So, when we consider ‘detail’ in verbal and written responses, the expectation is to provide as much of the full information about individual facts and items that you know.

Vocabulary

Explicit – Meanings which are literal and obvious

Implicit – Meanings which are suggested though not directly expressed

Explain – Make (an idea or situation) clear in your writing by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts.

Analyse – Examine something methodically and in detail, in order to explain and interpret it.

Methodical – Done according to a systematic or established procedure

Process – a series of actions or steps in order to achieve a particular end

Interpret – Explain the meaning(s) of something

Evaluate – Provide an opinion about whether a statement is true and whether you agree with it, including evidence that supports your opinion