Literary Devices (Elements) Vocabulary and Definitions

Underline the literary terms you’ve learned in elementary school.

Characters: the people and sometimes animals who take part in the action of a story.
Protagonist: the character the story revolves around (the “good” character)
Antagonist: a character or force that opposes the protagonist (the “bad” character).
Setting: the time and place of the action of the story.
Exposition: background information of a story, introduces the setting, conflict, and characters.
Conflict: the struggle between opposing forces.
Rising action: the events between the conflict and rising to the climax.
Plot: the order of events in the story.
Climax: the turning point in the story.
Falling action: the events after the climax leading to the resolution.
Resolution: the ending of a story.
Point of view: who tells the story and how it is told.
Narrator: the person telling the story.
First-person: narrator participates in the action. Includes the use of the word, “I”.
Third person: narrator is not a part of the action. Includes the word, “he”, “she”, and “they”.

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