

Important Elements of Literary Texts

This anchor chart defines eight important features of literary texts: characters, plot, setting, theme, central idea, point of view, structure, and word choice. This chart could be used to supplement explicit instruction in developing higher-order questions related to literary texts. For more information on this skill, read the Iowa Reading Research Center blog post "[Student Generation of Higher-Order Questions](#)" by Leah Zimmerman, Ph.D.



Important Elements of Literary Texts



Characters

Motivations, thoughts, feelings, reactions



Plot

Exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, conflict, tension, suspense



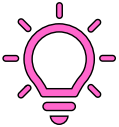
Setting

"When, where, weather;" effect on mood or plot



Theme

The author's message to the reader; how the author develops the message



Central Idea

A main idea in the text; how the author develops the main idea



Point of View

The type of narration used and how it affects the reader's understanding



Structure

Contribution of a sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza to a theme or central idea



Word Choice

Figurative language; sensory details; connotative meanings; impact on meaning and tone of a text

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