SHORT STORIES

Elements of Fiction

Reading Strategies

■ Pre-reading: make predictions from the title, what could the story be about?

■ During reading: annotate (record ideas on paper) by highlighting sentences that stand out to you, words you do not know, or recording parts where you make an emotional connection (like we did for the clip)

■ After reading: summarize the story in 1-2 sentences
What could be the message of the story, if it were a lesson to society?
Can you make connections between the story and your life, the story and other stories, or the story and the world?

Reading Strategies 2

- Place sticky notes or highlight areas of the story that challenge your knowledge, vocabulary, and understanding or values. This way all of your thinking is on the page! This will encourage closer reading and will save you work later.

- After reading
  - *What strategies do you use to remember important events and ideas?*
    - Write a concise summary (1-2 sentences, what happened? Who was involved? What is key to remember?)
    - Decide on themes and big ideas – what is the story saying about life in general? About humanity, how we should behave?
    - Try to connect to other stories read in class

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

1. Setting

- Where and when does the story take place?

- Describe the area as a whole but be specific about all the little details.

- It needs to create a concrete image in the reader's mind.

1. Setting Picture Activity

■ Select a picture from the next slide, create a vivid setting that creates a clear image in the reader's mind. *Be specific!*

❌	✔️
A small town	Seba Beach is a quaint town in central Alberta with a year round population of only 500. It's the type of town where everyone knows your name and a trip to the store is as much a social event as it is a chore.
1930's	The year is 1931, the prosperous times of the 1920s are over and although there is very little of anything to go around the people of Seba Beach don't let it get them down.

Why is the setting important?

- Read excerpt from <u>How to Read Literature like a Professor</u> by Dr. Foster

- *Take notes of key ideas to answer this question*

- *Do not write on the chapter handout – will give back to Ms. O*

Why is the setting important?

- The setting places the action in a <u>context</u> and will often add to the tone or mood of the story

For example:

If a story is set on a stormy night in a dark and deserted old house, it sets an eerie, creepy mood.

If a story is set in the future, on a space-station, we expect futuristic characters and advanced technology
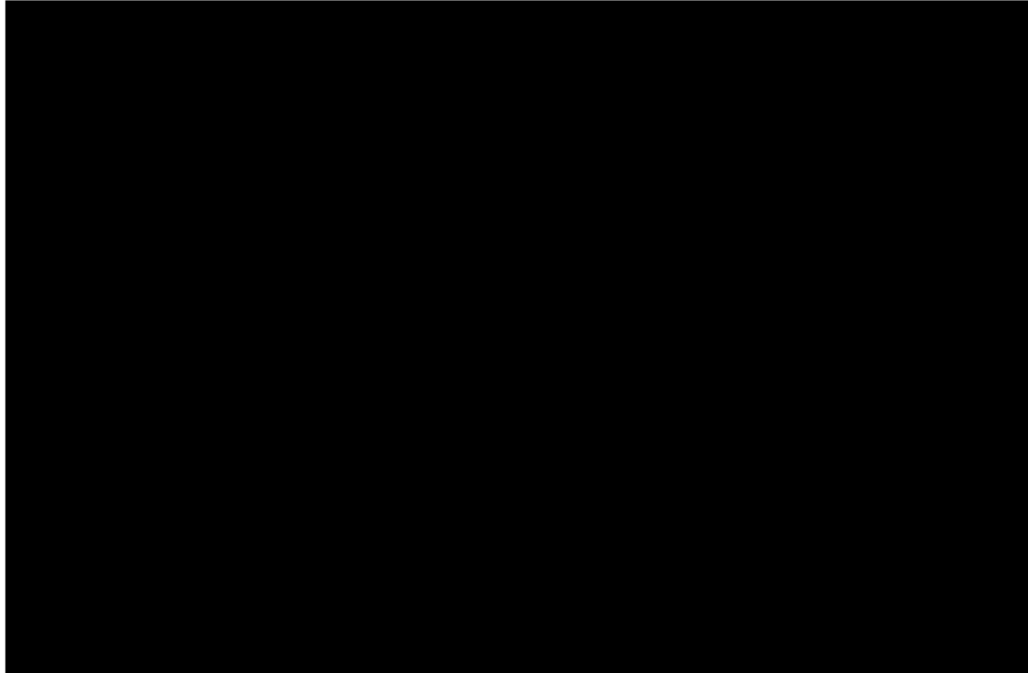
Why is the setting important?

In short:

the setting affects the kind of <u>conflicts</u> a character may face as well as the kind of <u>characters</u> we may see. Also sets the tone and mood for the story to create atmosphere.

Elements of setting may be symbolic
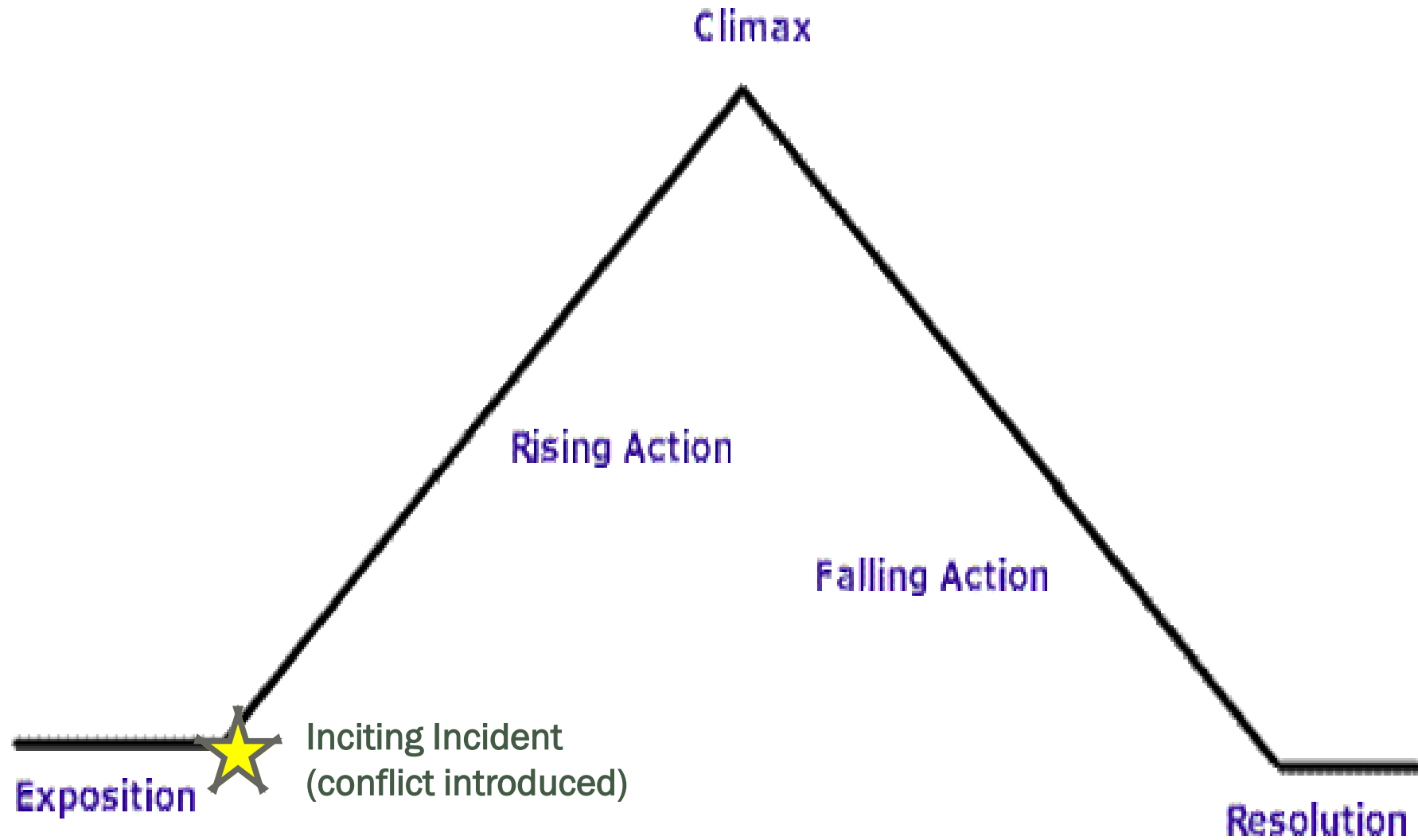
Basic plot diagram

Where do the elements belong?

DON'T LOOK AT YOUR NOTES!

(order below is scrambled!)

1. Climax

2. Exposition/Introduction

3. Resolution

4. Rising Action

5. Inciting Incident

6. Falling Action

2. Plot

Climax

Rising Action

Falling Action

Exposition

Inciting Incident
(conflict introduced)

Resolution

2. Plot

Definition:

- Answers the question, *what happens in the story*

- The series of events or incidents of which the story is composed of

- The framework of the story

2. The Exposition

1. Introduces the main character(s)
2. The setting (when and where the story takes place)
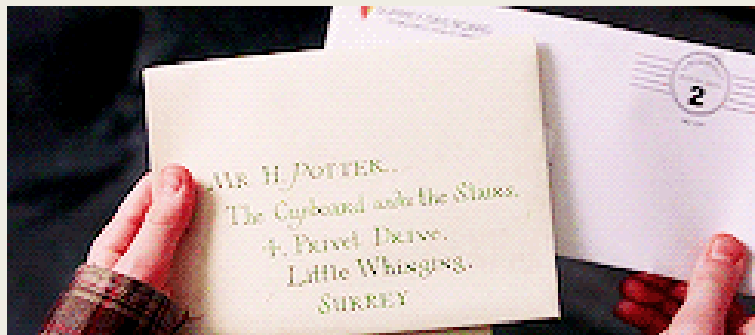3. The conflict (the problem they have to overcome)

2. The Inciting Incident (conflict introduced)

The incident or impetus that sets the *Rising Action* into motion.

Done typically in two ways:

1. The protagonist must leave the "ordinary world"

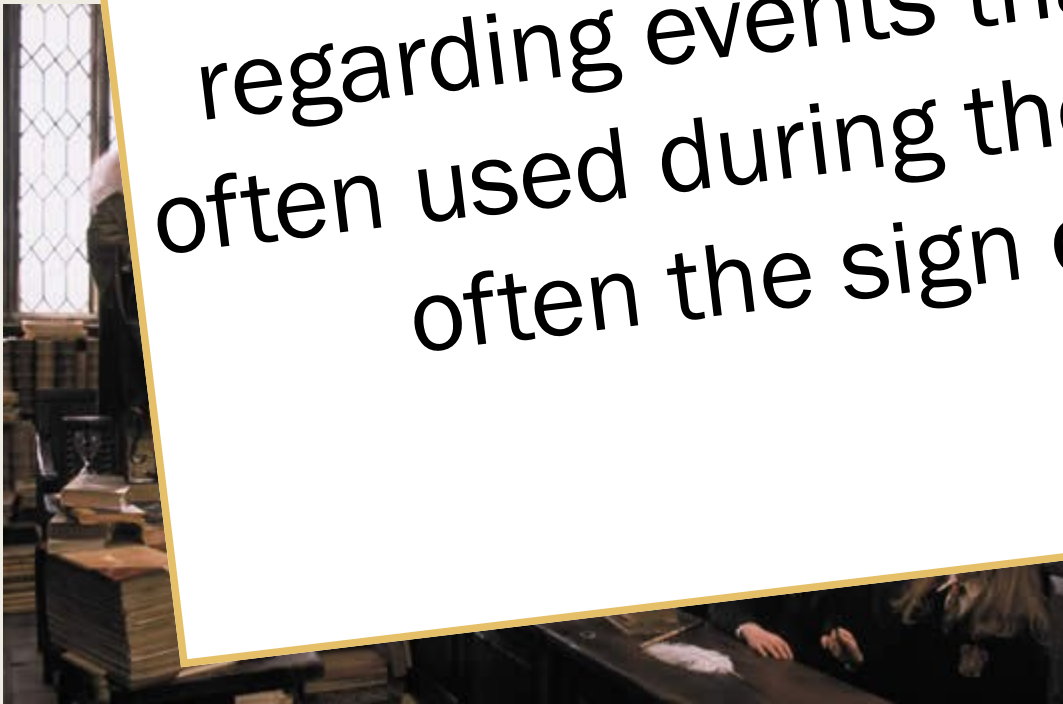2. A stranger comes and upsets the protagonist's "ordinary world"

Without a crucial "event" the story would not occur

2. The Rising A...

Note:

Foreshadowing is a term used to describe hints regarding the climax or hints regarding events that are to come. It is often used during the **Rising Action** and is often the sign of a quality story

2. The Climax

- The conflict is addressed – our main character may have to overcome their greatest fear or they may face their enemy

- Usually the most intense and interesting part of the story

- If our character learned from the lessons in the *Rising Action*, they will be successful and win in the *Climax*

2. The Falling Action

■ The events following the climax

■ Unanswered questions may be addressed

■ Minor plot lines are wrapped up (for smaller characters)

2. Resolution

- ■ Character's problems are (mostly) resolved
- ■ May give an insight to life for our character after the main action

Application

- In your notes, you have a plot diagram.
- You will apply the plot to the story by writing in details in your plot diagram

- Ready?

LITERARY DEVICES TO KNOW

Flashback

Example: In *Toy Story 2*, Jesse remembers her previous owner and all that they use to do together, before the doll was discarded.

Definition:

A literary device in which an earlier episode, conversation, or event is inserted into the sequence of events.

Often presented as a memory of the narrator or of another character.

An interruption in a story to permit the author to relate an event from the past

Imagery

Definition: Words or phrases that appeal to one or more of the **five senses.**

Writers use imagery to describe how their subjects *look, sound, touch, taste, and smell*.

The sense of *movement* is also a sense that can be used

Character Foil

Example: Gaston's combination of good looks and terrible personality emphasizes Beast's tragic situation. The former is a monster trapped inside a man; the latter a man trapped inside a monster.

Definition: A character who illuminates the qualities of another character by means of contrast.

character who contrasts with another **character** (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight particular qualities of the other **character**

Example: Throughout most of *The Lion King*, Simba mopes around feeling guilty for his father's death, unaware (as the audience is) that Scar actually killed Mufasa

Irony

Definition: Irony that occurs when the meaning of the situation is understood by the audience but not by the characters in the literary work.

Dramatic: When the audience (or reader) knows information that characters do not

Verbal: When someone says the opposite of what they mean (see sarcasm)

Situational: a reversal of expectations

Allusion

Definition: A historical, literary, mythological, or biblical reference

Types: Historical, Literary, Biblical

Example: In *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the gargoyle Laverne tells a flock of pigeons to "Fly my pretties! Fly, Fly!" à la the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Foreshadowing

Example: Before she's fatally shot by a hunter (and millions of childhoods are scarred), Bambi's mother gives Bambi a stern lecture on the dangers of man.

Definition: A warning or indication of a future event.

Purpose: Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story or a chapter and helps the reader develop expectations about the coming events in a story. There are various ways of creating a foreshadowing. A writer may use dialogues of characters to hint at what may occur in future. In addition, any event or action in the story may throw a hint to the readers about future events or action. This can help create *suspense*.

Mood

Definition: The atmosphere that pervades a literary work with the intention of evoking a certain emotion or **feeling from the audience**. This is done through word choice (positive and negative **connotations**) will help to create atmosphere.

Example: *Fantasia* frequently uses music and setting to drastically shift the mood from light and playful to dark and foreboding. This image makes the audience feel .....

Example: In *Cinderella*, the main character completes ALL the added chores her family has assigned her and has done so in time to leave for the ball. Once she is ready, her stepsisters destroy the dress she planned to wear to the ball. How does this make the audience feel?

Suspense

Definition: The growing interest and excitement readers experience while awaiting a climax or resolution in a work of literature.

A feeling of anxious uncertainty about the outcome of events. Writers create suspense by raising questions in the minds of their readers.

Example: In *Toy Story 3*, the audience in suspense as they watch the toys attempt to escape the daycare.

Example: In *Brave*, the audience is anxious as they watch Merida jumping towards her mother as a bear is reaching for her.

Symbolism

Definition: An object, character, figure, or color that is used to represent an abstract idea or concept.

Symbolism can take different forms. Generally, it is an object representing another to give it an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. Sometimes, however, an action, an event or a word spoken by someone may have a symbolic value. For instance, "smile" is a symbol of friendship. Similarly, the action of someone smiling at you may stand as a symbol of the feeling of affection which that person has for you

Example: Dumbo's "magic" feather represents courage and self-confidence. Once he truly believes in himself, he no longer needs it as a psychological crutch.

Motif

Definition: A recurrent image, word, phrase, or action that tends to unify the literary work or that forms the theme in a work of literature.

A dominant or <u>reoccurring</u> symbol that contributes to the central idea of the story (the theme)

Example: In Snow White, the mirror is a motif. It appears throughout the tale and contributes to the theme of self-image and jealousy

Theme

defined as a <u>main idea</u> or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly

Example: A theme in *Frozen*, is the importance of accepting personal identity.

3. Characterization

Two ways we can learn about a character:

■ <u>Direct Presentation</u> is when the author tells us straight out through another character, for example we know that Charlie Brown is a blockhead because Lucy tells us directly that he is a "blockhead".

3. Characterization

Two ways we can learn about a character:

- **Indirect Presentation** is when the author describes the character in action and the   reader infers what the character is like from what he/she thinks, does, or says. For example, we know that Lucy is mean because she always takes the football away from Charlie Brown when he tries to kick it.

3. Characters

- We can also learn about a character through the acronym: *STEAL*

- SPEECH – what does the character say? How does the character speak?

- THOUGHTS – What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings? (Or their writing. Ex: a diary entry)

- EFFECT on others – What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave as they react to the character?

- ACTIONS – What does the character do? How does the character behave?

- LOOKS – What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

3. Characters

- But keep in mind!!
- Can we always trust what characters/narrators tell us?
- NO!
- Sometimes the characters and narrators don't always tell the truth
- A narrator who cannot be trusted is called an **unreliable narrator**

3. Characterization

Protagonist

    The main character of the story
(Usually a good guy, but not always!)

Antagonist

    The main force of opposition (usually
the bad guy but that is *not* the definition)

3. Characterization

Personality Traits

1. Flat – Limited personality. Has 1-2 personality traits (flat like a 1-2 sided paper)

2. Round – has multiple personality traits

Character Development

1. Static – the character does NOT develop over the story

2. Dynamic – the character grows and changes by the end of the story

Static vs. Dynamic Characters

Static Character

When faced with conflict or new environments, static characters do not change or evolve.

Their persona can be naturally appealing, so they don't have to change for readers to love them.

Ideal for heroic, charismatic, or quirky characters such as Sherlock Holmes or Tom Sawyer.

Dynamic Character

Dynamic characters undergo a change through a life event, conflict, or other transition.

Their flaws make them interesting, and their transformations make them likable.

Tend to be characters who are central to the story, such as the protagonist.
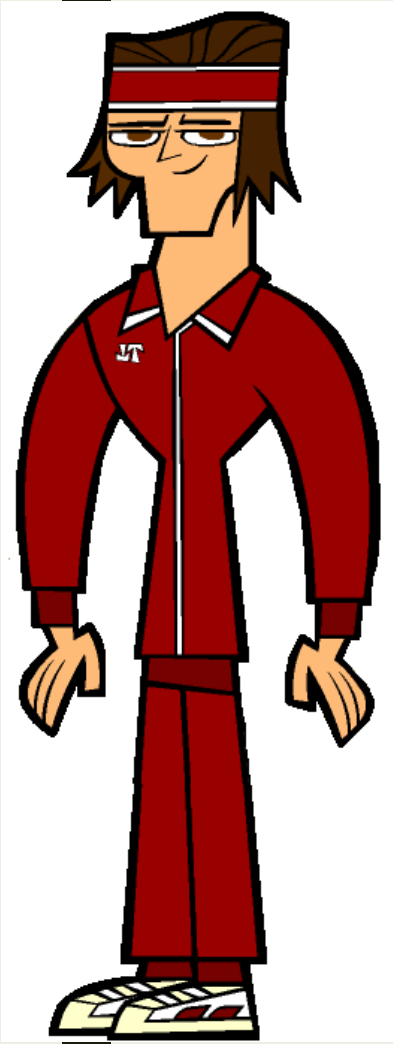
PlotBoilers

3. Characterization

tock – the character is stereotypical

The evil stepmother

The dumb jock

The awkward nerd

The mad scientist

QUIZ NEXT DAY:
- PLOT
- LITERARY TERMS (SO FAR)
- SETTING
- CHARACTER
-IRONY

You will have passages to identify

4. Conflict

- The opposition that a character faces

Internal

– *Person vs. Self – the character is dealing with an inner struggle; for example, addiction, body image issues, self-doubt, etc..*
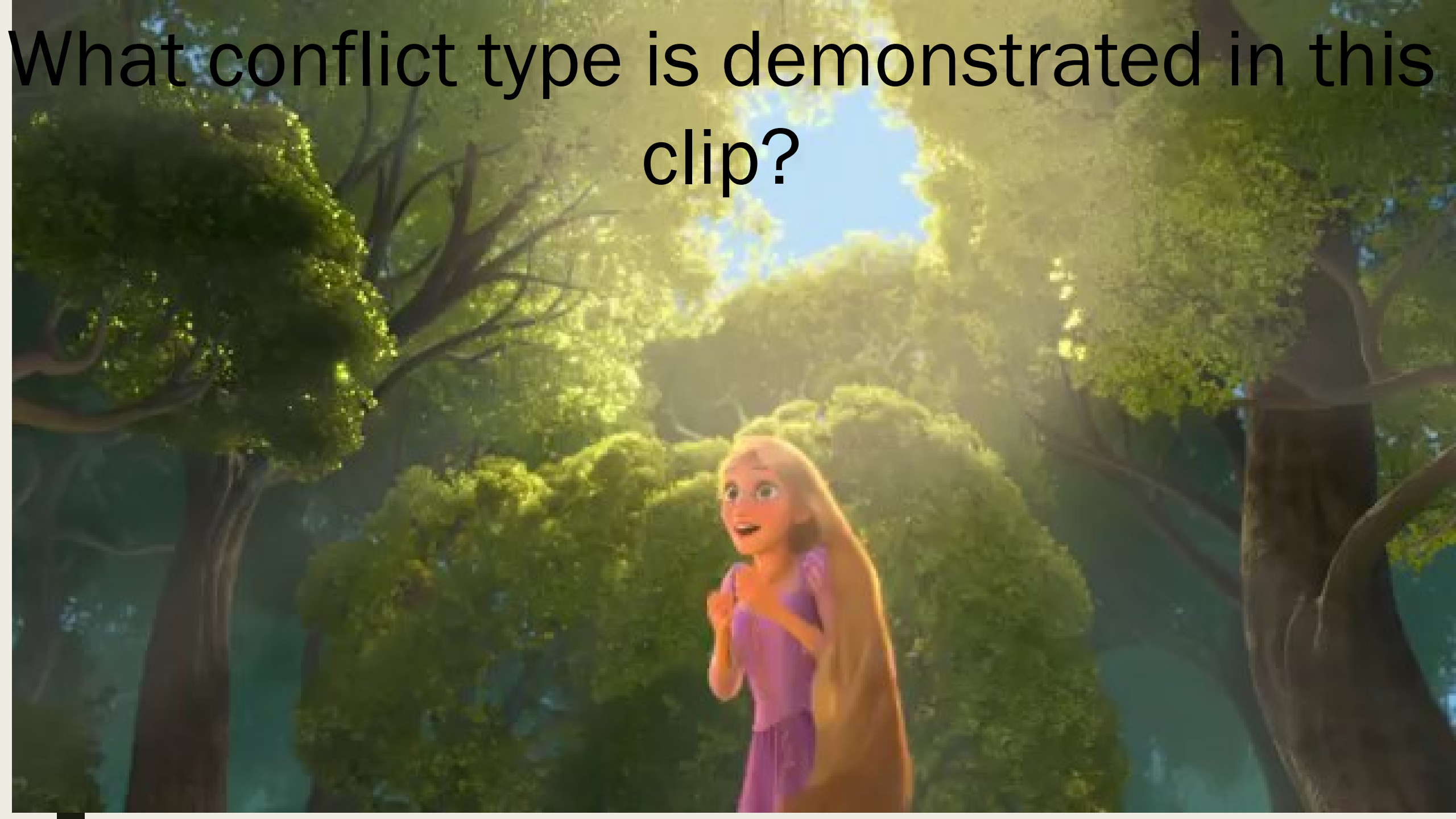
4. Conflict

■ The opposition that a character faces

■ External

- *Person vs. Person – a character opposes another*
- *Person vs. Society – a character against most of society, a government, law, accepted belief…*
- *Person vs. Nature – character against elements of nature*
- *Person vs. Supernatural – a character against time, fate/destiny, forces they cannot control*
- *Person vs. technology – a character struggles against elements of technology*
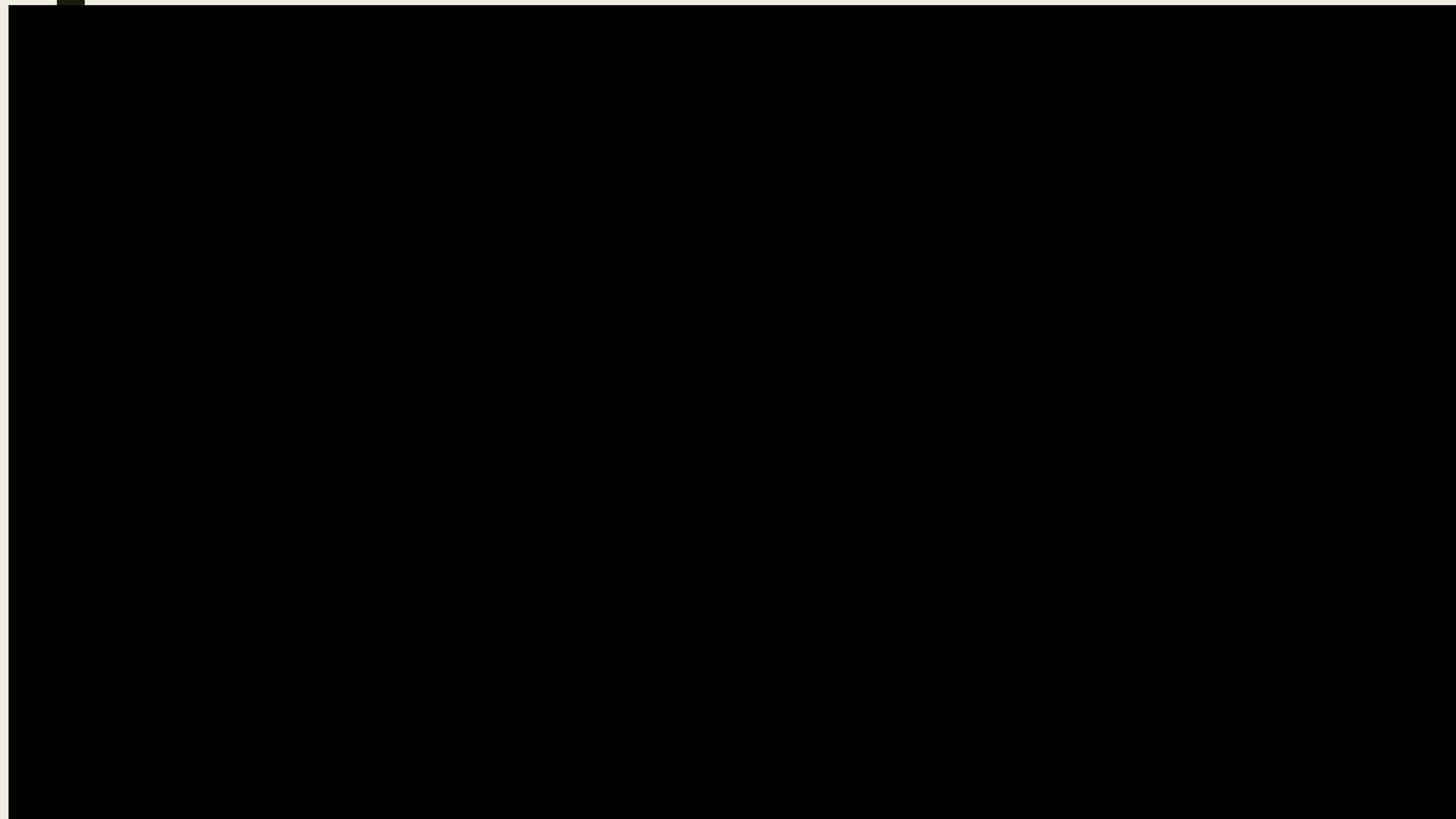
What conflict type is demonstrated here?

What conflict type is demonstrated in this clip?

What conflict type is demonstrated here?

Perspective

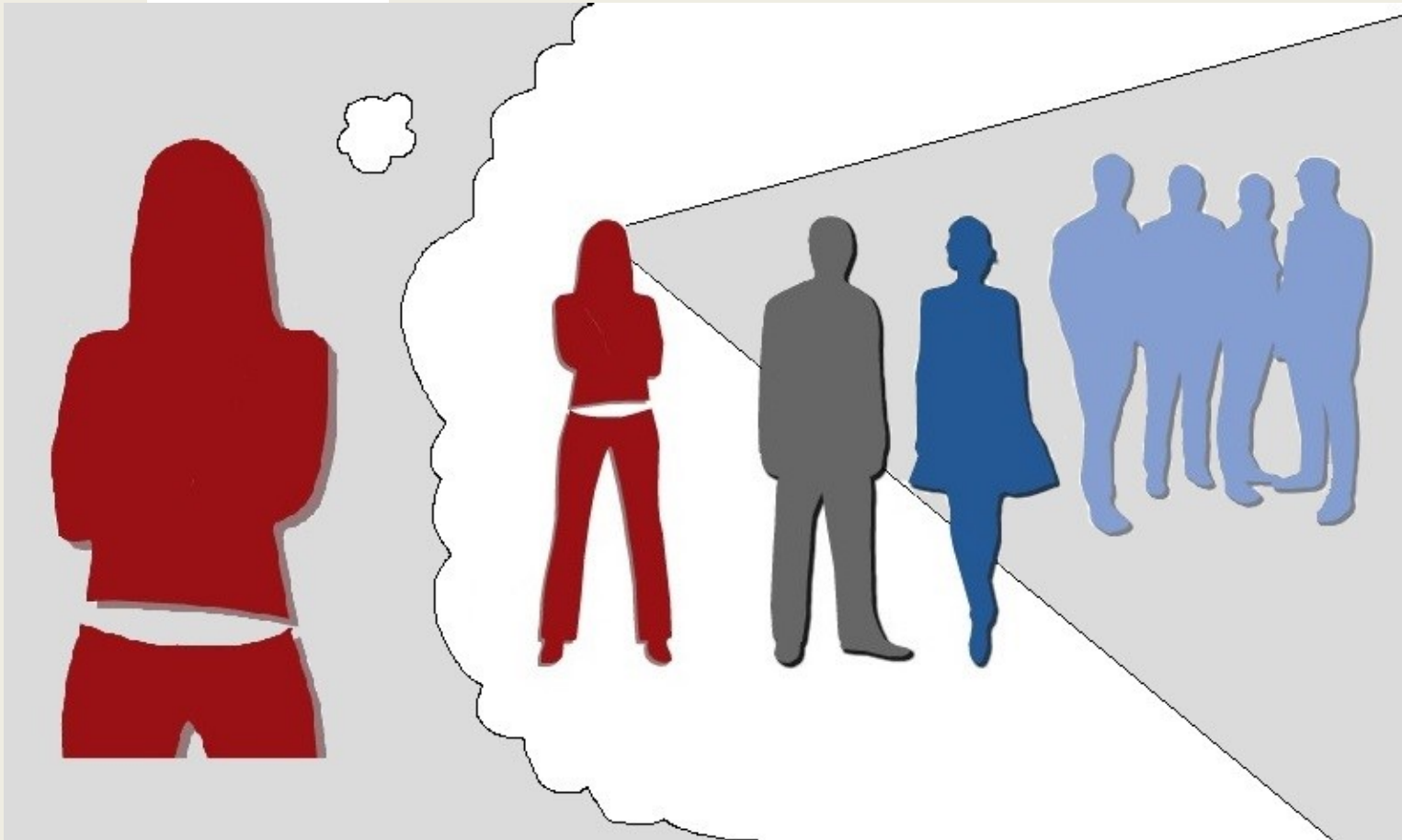| Perspective Type	Definition	Pronoun
First Person Perspective	The narrator is a character in the story— reveals ONLY the thoughts and feelings of the narrator	I, Me, Myself, We, Us
Second Person Perspective	The reader is a character in the story (ex. Choose your own adventure)	You
Third Person Limited	the narrator is *not* a character but their knowledge is limited to that of one character. Follows the action and thoughts of one character	He, She, They
Third Person Omniscient	(All-knowing) Not a character in the story but follows the action, thoughts and feelings of *multiple* characters	He, She, They
Objective	Not a character in the story. Only reports the action and dialogue. Does not reveal the inner thoughts and feelings of characters unless they say it. Ex. A newspaper article or textbook page	He, She, They

BUT KEEP IN MIND!

Can we always trust what the character(s)/narrator(s) tell us? NO!

Sometimes characters and narrators are deceptive (with the intention of throwing off the reader), have a skewed perspective (may <u>believe</u> something occurred when it did <u>not</u>), or are simply unreliable sources.

We call narrators who cannot be trusted **<u>unreliable narrators</u>**

1ˢᵗ Person – can be past or present tense

CH

1ˢᵗ Point of View – what it looks like

1ˢᵗ POV

"I told Jem if he set fire to the Radley house I was going to tell Atticus on him." (from *To Kill a Mockingbird*)

– *Note the use of "I"*

"I hear his instructions in my head. "Just clear out, put as much distance as you can between yourselves and the others, and find a source of water."

But it's tempting, so tempting, when I see the bounty waiting there before me. And I know that if I don't get it, someone else will. That the Career Tributes who survive the bloodbath will divide up most of these life-sustaining spoils. Something catches my eye. There, resting on a mound of blanket rolls, is a silver sheath of arrows and a bow, already strung, just waiting to be engaged. *That's mine*, I think. *It's meant for me.*"

– *From Suzzane Collins' Hunger Games*

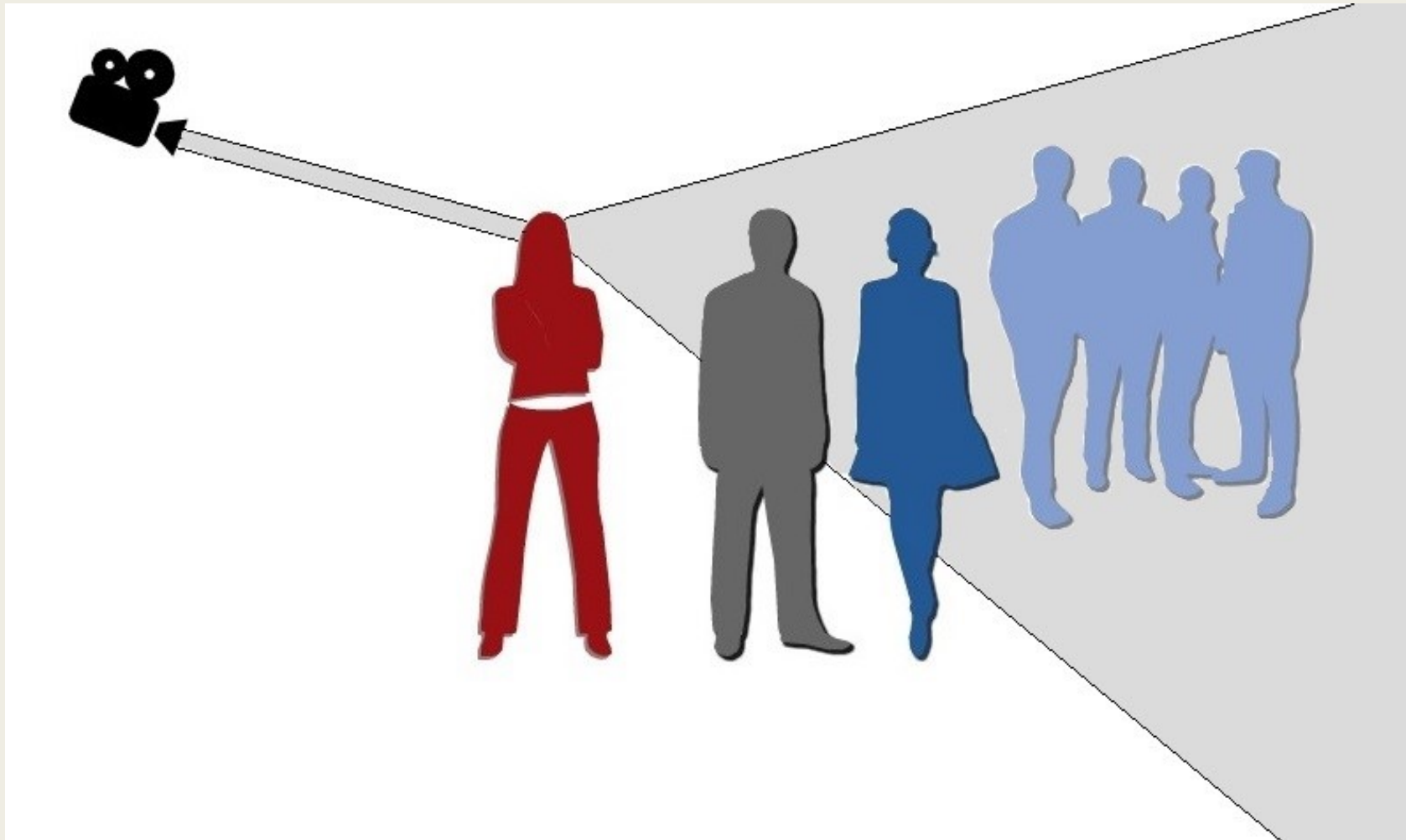Perspective

2nd Point of View – what it looks like

Writers can improve the involvement of the audience by making use of this perspective. The reader is a character in the story.

'Here is page 31 again, page 32... and then what comes next? Page 17 all over again, a third time! What kind of book did they sell you, anyway? They bound together all these copies of the same signature, not another page in the whole book is any good.
You fling the book on the floor...'

Italo Calvino *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*

An example of second person perspective

3rd Person limited

Perspective

(3rd Person) Limited Omniscient: what it looks like

(3rd Person) Limited Omniscient:
"Harry had taken up his place at wizard school, where he and his scar were famous …but now the school year was over, and he was back with the Dursleys for the summer, back to being treated like a dog that had rolled in something smelly…The Dursleys hadn't even remembered that today happened to be Harry's twelfth birthday. Of course, his hopes hadn't been high."

(*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*)

- *The narrator only knows the thoughts of one character*
- *BUT it is __not__ told from that character's perspective*
- *Like a camera that follows only that character and can reveal ONLY their thoughts and feelings*

Perspective
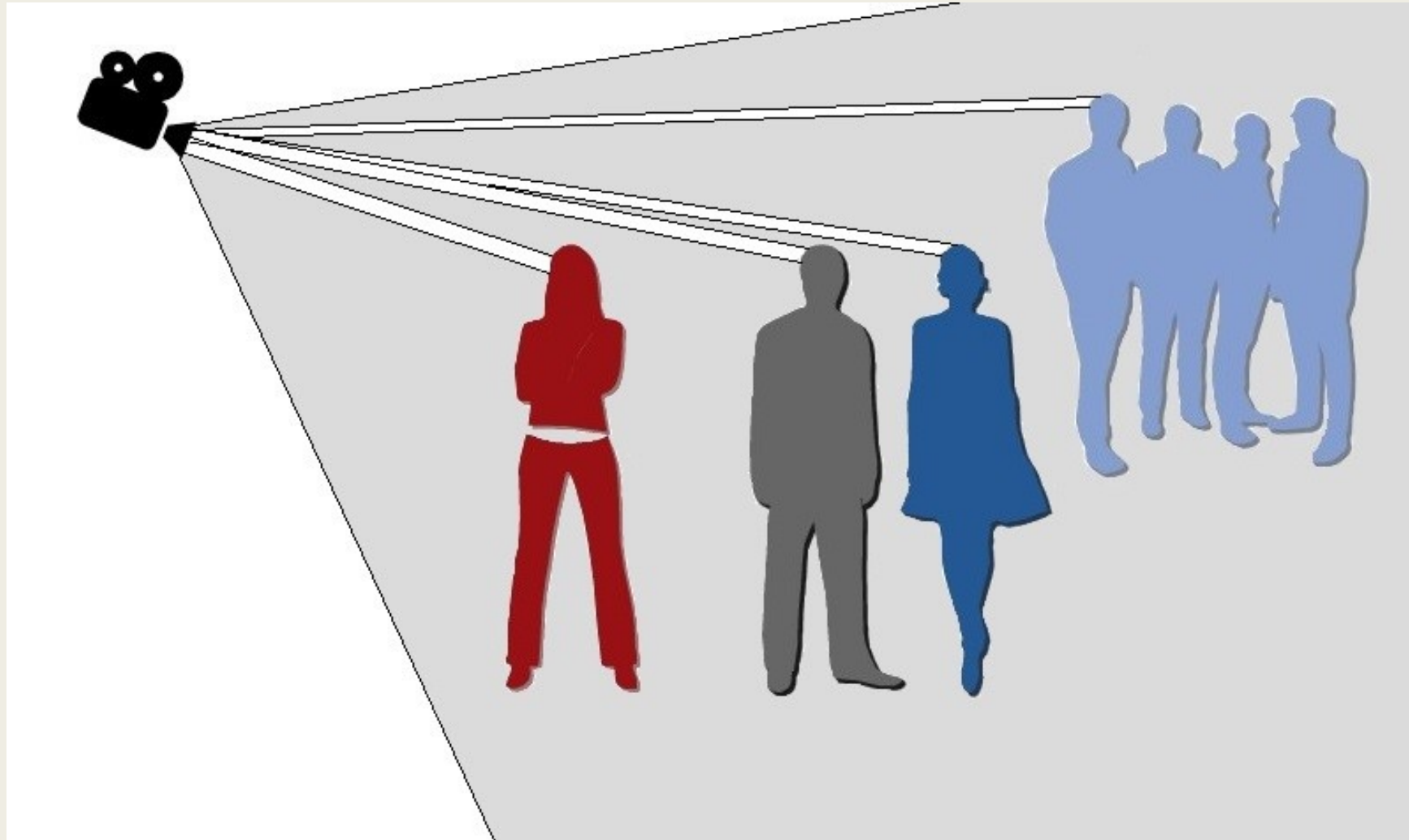
Omniscient

Perspective

Omniscient – What it looks like

Omniscient Excerpt (Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*)

"Langdon groaned. Tonight's lecture-a slide show about pagan symbolism hidden in the stones of Chartres Cathedral-had probably ruffled some conservative feathers in the audience. Most likely, some religious scholar had trailed him home to pick a fight."

"One mile away, the hulking albino named Silas limped through the front gate of the luxurious brownstone residence on Rue la Bruyère. The spiked cilice belt that he wore around his thigh cut into his flesh, and yet his soul sang with satisfaction of service to the Lord."

Can look into **every** character's mind

Perspective

Objective – What it looks like

Objective (like a newspaper reporter – <u>only reports the actions and dialogue</u>)

"If it wasn't for the fast actions of several passersby, a man could have been seriously injured when the oxygen bottle he was using caught fire.

The unidentified man was operating a scooter at the intersection of 31st Street and 43rd Avenue on Monday afternoon when his lit cigarette caught the oxygen line on fire.

Bobby and Carol Louis were driving by when they saw the flames from across the road.

Bobby said the flames were running up the hose to the tank and the man was waving the end of the hose in the air trying to put out the flames."

Perspective

Practice

You will practice re-writing the following "story" into different perspectives. Remember: pay attention to your pronoun use and how many "heads" you can go into

Perspective

Practice

<u>third person limited</u>

"A young girl named Jan sits in class with her friend Ben taking notes. She has trouble paying attention because she thinks she saw a mouse in the room"

Perspective

Practice

Rewrite the following "story" into <u>first person perspective</u>

"A young girl named Jan sits in class with her friend Ben taking notes. She has trouble paying attention because she thinks she saw a mouse in the room"

Perspective

Practice

Rewrite the following "story" into **second person perspective**

"A young girl named Jan sits in class with her friend Ben taking notes. She has trouble paying attention because she thinks she saw a mouse in the room"

Practice

Rewrite the following "story" into <u>third person omniscient</u>

"A young girl named Jan sits in class with her friend Ben taking notes. She has trouble paying attention because she thinks she saw a mouse in the room"

Perspective

Practice

Rewrite the following "story" into <u>objective</u>

"A young girl named Jan sits in class with her friend Ben taking notes. She has trouble paying attention because she thinks she saw a mouse in the room"

Perspective

Practice

Great!

Now, you will create your own examples!

5 mins...

Perspective

Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up

- Stand up and raise hand (visually show you are looking for a partner)

- High five your partner when you meet them

- Partner A: Quiz them with one of your sample sentences if they get it right, give them praise "GOOD JOB!"
  - *If they were incorrect, give them a hint "What pronoun did I use?"*
  - *If they are incorrect again, explain the answer so they understand*

- Partner B: Repeat for your sample

- Say "Thank you!", raise your hand, and search for a new partner

- Goal: quiz and be quizzed on all types of perspective or until Ms. Oleksewich gives the attention countdown

Perspective