

story MAY include

- ? suspense
- ! surprise ending
- foreshadowing
- ← flashback

Look for the sequence of events in the story.

# CHARACTER

Main Character

Appearance

Personality

revealed by direct and indirect characterization

Protagonist

revealed by direct and indirect characterization



Background

Motivation

revealed by direct and indirect characterization

internal conflict



revealed by direct and indirect characterization

revealed by direct and indirect characterization

external conflict

Antagonist

revealed by direct and indirect characterization

minor characters

Nature

Society

How does the protagonist grow, develop, or change?

Is it past, present, or future?  
Can you identify a specific time?

- day or days
- date or dates
- month or months
- year or years
- season or seasons
- era or eras

What span on time does the story cover?

Time



**SETTING**

Setting is used for specific purposes:

- to create a mood
- to make the action seem more real
- to show the reader a different way of life
- to be the source of conflict or struggle
- to symbolize an idea

Place

Are specific places identified?  
Can you describe general locations  
(jungle, desert, beach, home, school)?  
Is it a realistic or fantasy setting?



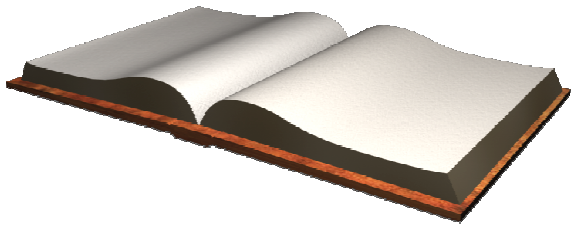
What do you learn about the customs, attitudes, culture, and society, in this location and period?

## Implicit Themes

Implicit themes are *not* spelled out word-for-word in the text.  
You need to **INFER** the:

**CENTRAL IDEA  
MESSAGE**

**INSIGHT  
MEANING**



## Explicit Themes

Explicit themes *are* spelled out word-for-word in the text.  
You can **COPY** or **QUOTE** the:

**CENTRAL IDEA  
MESSAGE**

**INSIGHT  
MEANING**

In *Aesop's Fables* the point of the story is said flat out at the end,  
“And the moral of the story is ....”

Look for what the author wants you to know, understand, believe, or feel.