

# PARTS OF THE NOVEL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Almost all novels have a major **problem** of some type that they solve. This is introduced near the beginning of the story and most of the story is spent trying to solve this problem.
2. Through solving the problem an underlying idea, message, or moral is given (by the author) to the reader. This is called the **theme**.
3. The problem is worked out in certain surroundings of place and time. This makes up the **setting**.
4. What is done to solve the problem makes up the **plot** of the story. The plot, in its simplest form consists of:
  - a. The action that gets the story "off the ground" is called the **motivating force** or **inciting incident**.
  - b. After the story starts, difficulties are encountered. These are **complications** that make it more difficult to solve the problem.
  - c. When the greatest (and usually the final) difficulty appears, we say the story has reached its **climax**. It is usually the most exciting part of the book. The solution of the major problem usually occurs here.
  - d. After the climax, something usually happens before the very end that's not that exciting. This is the **anticlimax**. The author may "tie up loose ends" here.
  - e. The novel ends after the anticlimax with the **conclusion**.
5. Throughout the story there are scattered incidents (see complications) that keep up your strong feeling of curiosity as to what happens next. These elements of **suspense** have been used to keep you reading.
6. The **characters** in a novel usually represent a certain type of person. What character types are represented in this novel?
  - a. The characters are usually judged by:
    - i. what they do
    - ii. what they say
    - iii. what the author says about them

Please turn over --->

- b. Novels may have both major and minor characters. The **major characters** are those that play a large role in the story. The **minor characters** are those that play a small role in the story and are often used by the major characters to solve the problem.
- c. People who help to solve the problem of the novel and who would be thought of as "good guys" are called **protagonist**. The characters that hinder the solution of the problem and therefore thought of as "bad guys" are called **antagonists**.

### A Plot Outline For Most Novels

