

Story Exploration

questions for use with the Story Planner
by Don Falkos

EXPLORATION OF THE CONCRETE

Who is in the story?

List all the characters whether they be people, animals, or something else altogether.

What is in the story?

List all objects, large or small.

Where does the story take place?

List the setting or settings of the story. Consider things such as the country, region, city or town, neighborhood, street, structure, room, field, lake, orchard, cave, etc. Include the climate. Weather conditions are part of the setting.

When does the story take place?

List what is known about the timeframe of the story. Consider the era, year, season, month, day, date, time of day, etc. How does the timeframe of this story relate to other historical events? Also consider the time span. How long does it take for the events of the story to unfold?

What happens?

List the events of the story in the order they occur.

What is the problem?

List any problem, obstacle, barrier, difficulty, etc. presented in the story.

What is the resolution?

Is the problem solved? Is the obstacle, barrier, or difficulty overcome? If so, how?

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EXPLORATION OF THE ABSTRACT

What is *THAT* all about?

Identify cultural differences that exist between our world and the world of the story? Is there any special knowledge, historical or otherwise, that is needed in order to understand the story?

Why does that happen?

Explain why the characters do what they do. What is the motivation for each action? What is the emotion involved? How does the character feel at that moment?

How are things different?

How do the actions and events of the story influence or change the characters and their surroundings?

What is the sensual perception of the setting?

What do your five senses tell you about the settings and events of the story? In other words, if you were there, what would you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel (as in 'touch')?

What do you like?

List your favorite character, object, event, etc. and explain why it is your favorite.

What is the most critical moment in the story?

Potentially different for each person, this may or may not be the climax of the story.