

Structure is a huge and often confusing term, especially when you are learning about it for the first time; however, an easy way is to simply see that everything the writer includes in their story is structure: the characters, the setting, the events, the symbols. Language is the method the author uses to convey the structure. Remember that all the methods work with each other and build on each other's effects.

METHOD	EFFECT	HOW TO WRITE ABOUT IT
THEME	these are the subjects the author wants us to think about	<i>the author focuses on the theme of family / education / friendship etc to make us consider / feel / understand...</i>
MOOD	tells the reader how to feel about the theme	<i>the mood of disgust / hatred etc suggests the author wants us to be disgusted at war...</i>
CHARACTERISATION: AVERAGE JOE - average job, name, life, family etc	The Average Joe is equal to the reader. This results in sympathy because we recognize ourselves in them, and thus identify with them, their desires, and their needs.	<i>Eva is characterised as an average person, thus she is equal to us. This results in sympathy because we recognise ourselves in her and identify with her desires, needs and weaknesses. The author wants to show how we could easily be in the same situation...</i>
CHARACTERISATION: UNDERDOG - young, small, outnumbered, disabled, foreign	the character who seems always at a disadvantage. So we're inclined to protect, help, or console them as the story progresses. The Underdog is an appealing protagonist because he makes us feel three emotions—compassion for their lack of self-esteem or resources to be successful, including any physical, emotional, social, or mental handicaps; admiration for their determination to triumph over obstacles and take control over their lives; and suspense for the implausibility that they'll succeed, the odds being so stacked up against them	<i>Alfred's youth / name / job / social status / home / makes him seem like an underdog type of character, which inclines us to protect, help or console him. We also feel compassion for his lack of resources / self-esteem / social handicaps and admiration for his determination to triumph over his obstacles because it seems so unlikely that he will succeed.</i>
CHARACTERISATION: LOST SOUL - wounded, outsider, haunted, self-loathing, hiding	the character who takes the wrong turn, goes down the wrong path. He's morally defective and represents the darker side of human nature. He evokes fascination since we're intrigued by glimpses of the dark side.	<i>Macbeth's continuous mistakes creates intrigue and empathy because we can recognise our own failings in him; this also acts as a hook to keep us reading because we want to know if he overcomes his darker side.</i>
CHARACTERISATION: HERO - strong, powerful, intelligent etc	The Hero is superior to the reader, and produces admiration. Although they're not perfect, they're confident about their skills and take action without hesitation. They have no ambivalence, no self-doubts. We may not identify with them, but we fantasize about being them.	<i>Roddy's skill and confidence in football produces admiration and can even force the reader to fantasise about being heroic, just like him.</i>
FOCUS	Makes us focus on something important	<i>The second paragraph focuses on the mother's actions; she 'bakes, paints and keeps the house in perfect condition'. It is through the focus on her actions that we understand her loyalty and dedication to her family</i>
SETTING - time, place, smell, taste, visual images	Setting can create the world of your story, show characterization, add conflict, slow or speed up pacing, add or decrease tension, relate a character's back story, thread in emotion, and more.	<i>Through the use of symbolism and multisensory descriptions, the author uses the setting as a vehicle for establishing mood or introducing conflict, the author pulls readers in, allowing us to experience life along with the characters in their worlds, to draw us into the moment, so we feel we are pulling our chairs up to the table so that we are utterly convinced of the reality of the meal or riding in the horse carriage with the characters.</i>
ACTIONS / EVENTS - use of verbs	the reader experiences emotions through the character's actions and dialogue, instead of telling the reader how he feels. Actions imply choices that show a character's thought process	<i>Scrooge's choice to live alone portrays his lack of connection with the rest of humanity</i>
CONTRAST	can emphasise the difference or change between two things and highlight conflicts	<i>The contrast between the children's lives in the first paragraph and their lives in the second paragraph emphasises the change their lives went through and we feel sympathetic for the loss they experienced</i>
WITHOLDING INFORMATION	creates suspense / tension / mystery to hook the reader	<i>By choosing to withhold the information about what happened to the family, the author creates mystery and intrigue which hooks the reader...</i>