

<u>STRUCTURAL TERMINOLOGY</u>	Plot or story – What happens and in what order?	Narrative – How is the story told?
Definition: Structure refers to the way a piece of writing is organised. Every piece of writing contains a combination of structural techniques. These are the materials with which extended pieces of writing are built. Writers use particular structural techniques to achieve specific effects. By organising their writing in these ways, authors are trying to control the ways you think about the story and how you feel about its characters.	Exposition – the beginning: when places, people and the situation are introduced.	First person – when the narrator tells his or her own story using the pronouns ‘I’ or ‘we’.
	Rising action – a situation develops: a series of relevant incidents that create suspense, interest and tension in a narrative.	Third person – when a story is told by some kind of witness to the events who uses people’s names and the pronouns ‘he’, ‘she’ or ‘they’.
	Climax – the situation becomes critical: the most intense, exciting, or important point of a story, where the issue is fought out.	Narrator – the storyteller.
	Anti-climax – something significant seems to have been building up but at the final moment it all collapses, or is undermined.	Monologue – when one character speaks for him or herself.
Characters	Falling action – the calm after the storm: this occurs right after the climax. It is what happens after the main problem of the story has been solved.	Dialogue – this is how writers present conversations between characters.
First impressions – what are you made to think of the character the first time you meet her / him?		Reported speech – when we are told what a speaker meant rather than what exactly he or she said; e.g. ‘he said that he would go’, based on ‘I will go’.
Altered impression – how does the writer change your view of a character?		Free indirect discourse – when a narrator adopts the language of a particular character in narrating what is happening; e.g. ‘Lily the caretaker’s daughter was <u>literally</u> run off her feet’.
General Terms	Sentence Structures	Flashback – when a narrator takes you back in time to show you an event from a character’s past?
Sequencing – the order of the events or of the descriptions.	Simple sentences – these express one simple idea; e.g. ‘ <i>Jesus wept.</i> ’. They can be very short.	Circular narrative – when the last line of an extract takes you right back to the beginning.
Contrast – when two different types of setting or character are presented together so that they reveal something about one another.	Compound sentences – these express two simple ideas and a conjunction (FANBOYS) is used to stick them together; e.g. ‘ <i>Jesus wept and the disciples ran away.</i> ’.	Key Questions
Repetition – when the same word, phrase or image appears again and again in a piece of writing.	Complex sentences – these express a complex idea; e.g. ‘ <i>Upset, Jesus wept.</i> ’. They can be very long.	Think about how the structure works in terms of the effects it creates. Ask yourself why the paragraphs are ordered the way they are. Is it important for us to know certain bits of information before we get to the next part of the text?
Building tension – when a writer makes you feel or fear that something dramatic is going to happen.	Non-sentences – sometimes writers present words or phrases as if they are sentences; e.g. ‘ <i>Jesus.</i> ’.	
Foreshadowing – when a writer makes you feel that a specific thing is going to happen; e.g. a murder or a marriage.	Short sentences – sentences of no more than seven words are often used to create a feeling of pace or urgency.	Look for links from the beginning to the end of a text. For example, is there a repeated image? Or is there a significant change in an attitude, character or setting?

