

A detailed illustration of school supplies on a wooden desk. It includes a green notebook, a silver pen, a yellow pencil with a pink eraser, a blue spiral notebook with drawings of hearts, a butterfly, and the word "hello", and an orange and white marker. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with some yellow shavings.

## Plot, Characters and Setting





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



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This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



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## College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

The three main elements of any story are  
**plot**, **character** and **setting**.  
Thinking about these elements is an  
important part of critical reading.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



This graph represents the shape of a traditional narrative.  
Press on each number to learn more about the stages of a traditional story.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Can you identify the plot stages of  
*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens?  
Match each moment in the story to the  
correct stage.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



Read the excerpt from the opening of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. What does Dickens reveal about the characters and setting of his story?

Press **start** to begin.

start



Read the next part of Scrooge's conversation with his nephew from *A Christmas Carol*.

What can you tell about Scrooge's character from this dialogue? Press the adjectives that you think best describe Scrooge.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







All stories have **conflict**. There are two main types of literary conflict: external and internal.

- **External conflict** is between the character and an outside force, such as nature, society or another character.
- **Internal conflict** is a struggle that takes place in a character's mind. This type of conflict usually involves the character changing in some way to resolve his or her inner conflict.



In *A Christmas Carol*, does Scrooge face external or internal conflict?



The **rising action** is the section of a story that introduces and develops the conflict. Read this excerpt from the rising action of *A Christmas Carol* and press play to read some discussion questions.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





There are two main types of characters.

- **Static characters** stay the same throughout the story. Their opinions, personality and goals never change.
- **Dynamic characters** change in some significant way. This change must be internal, affecting the character's personality, beliefs or goals.

Remember: static stays the same. Dynamic sounds like dynamite, and dynamite changes (it explodes!).



Is Scrooge a static or dynamic character?

Read the excerpts from the climax, falling action and resolution of *A Christmas Carol*. Answer the questions at the end of each excerpt, using quotations from the text to support your ideas.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





In most books, it is clear how the characters and plot interact. However, many students forget to consider **setting** – the time and place in which a story occurs.

What do you know about the setting of *A Christmas Carol*?

Why is Christmastime an effective setting for this novel?

Would the story be as effective if Dickens set it during a different holiday?

Because Christmas is traditionally a time of charity and goodwill, it is an effective setting for Scrooge's transformation from coldhearted to generous.







As you read a story, think about how the plot, characters and setting interact, or affect each other. How would the story change if any one of these factors was altered?

Write a short essay about a story you are familiar with, focusing on how the characters or setting shape the plot. Use evidence from the text to support your claims.

Alternatively, rewrite all or part of a story you are familiar with, changing one aspect of character, setting or plot. Your writing should take into account how this change affects all other aspects of the story.

