Short Story Elements – DEFINITIONS

Turning point, highest point of action/emotion

Main problem in the story

Main events of the story

Events that lead to the climax

Events that follow the climax and lead to the conclusion; tie up loose ends in plot

Person in the story

Person telling the story

Character that changes/learns

Character that doesn’t change/learn

Well developed character; many traits

Predictable character

Unique character

Character that the audience knows very little about (1-2 qualities / traits)

Main Character

Character or force against main character

Beginning of the story, introduces conflict, character, setting

Outcome of the conflict/end of the story

Hints of what will come later in the story

Time and place of the story

Withholding information to create tension

Referring back to earlier events to help explain the present