

# STUDYING Prose

## Genre Terminology

Narrative

Epics, Folktales, Romances, Pastorals, Novel, Short Story, Novella

## Literary Terminology

Plot - Conflict, Dramatic Structure, *deus ex machine*, *in medias res*

Character

Protagonist & Antagonist

Round vs. Flat (Stock Characters)

Static vs. Dynamic

Foils

Setting – Historical, Geographical, Physical

Point-of-View – First person, Unreliable Narrator, Third person, Omniscient, Limited-Omniscient, and Objective

Style, Tone, & Language – Stream-of-consciousness, alliteration, parallelism, diction (formal & informal), imagery, Figures of Speech (metaphors/similes, personification, hyperbole, understatement, allusion)

Symbol & Allegory – universal/archetypal symbols, conventional symbols, allegorical figure, allegorical framework

Theme – read the quotations on page 381 for a true understanding of *theme* in literature.

*“A conventional good read is usually a bad read,  
a relaxing bath in what we know already.  
A true good read is surely an act of innovative  
creation in which we, the readers, become conspirators.”*

—Malcolm Bradbury (b.1932)

For Helpful Writing Hints, review the following Checklists...

Plot – p. 85

Character – p. 124

Setting – p. 175

\*Point-of-View – p. 231

\*Style, Tone, & Language – p. 282

Symbol & Allegory – p. 335

Theme – p. 385