

Academic Vocabulary for Collection 1

These are the literary terms you should know as you read and analyze the stories in this collection.

1. **Plot** A series of related events, each event connected to the next, like links in a chain.
2. **Sequence** The order in which the story's events take place. Most stories take place in **chronological order**, or time order.
3. **Flashback** A scene that interrupts the story to introduce an event that took place in the past.
4. **Flash-forward** A scene that jumps ahead of the story to narrate an event that happens in the future.
5. **Foreshadowing** Hints in the story that certain events are going to happen later.
6. **Exposition** The basic situation of a story.
7. **Conflict** A struggle between two forces.
 - An **external conflict** can take place between two characters, between a character and a group, or between a character and an animal or a force in nature.
 - An **internal conflict** is a struggle that takes place within a character's mind or heart.
8. **Complications** The problems that come up during the story as the characters try to resolve, or deal with, the conflict.
9. **Suspense** The excitement and tension that builds up in a story, which makes readers curious to find out how the story ends.
10. **Climax** The most exciting part of a story—the moment when the outcome of the conflict is determined. The climax usually occurs near the end of a short story.
11. **Resolution** (also called **denouement**) The very end of the story, when the loose ends of the plot are tied up.
12. **Setting** The time and place in which the story happens.