

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover has a light beige, textured fabric-like appearance. On the left side, there is a silver metal spiral binding. The text is centered on the cover in a black, serif font.

Short Story Unit

English 10/10H

January 2007

Literary Elements (for analysis)

- A **plot** is a sequence of related events in a story. A typical plot contains **conflict** – a struggle between opposing forces – and follows a pattern like the one that follows.

Plot Outline Terms

- **Exposition:** The writer gives background on the characters and situation.
- **Rising Action:** Events intensify the conflict.
- **Climax:** The tension reaches its highest point because the outcome of the conflict is about to be revealed.

Plot Outline Terms Continued

- **Falling Action:** The tension lessens because the outcome is clear.
- **Resolution:** The final outcome. Often, the resolution involves a change or an insight.

Creating Tension

- Writers use various techniques to add tension to a story. One technique is **foreshadowing** – giving details that hint at upcoming events.
- Question: Can you think of other techniques writers use to create tension?

An Important Reading Skill

- A **prediction** is a logical idea about what will happen. To make predictions, pay attention to story details and **use your prior knowledge**.
- Knowledge of stories with similar plots can help you predict events.
- Knowledge of human nature can help you predict how characters will act.

Vocabulary to add to your repertoire

- maligned – adj. spoken ill of
- furtively – adv. secretively; sneakily
- apathy – n. lack of interest or emotion