



An Introduction to... Narrative Structure

Narrative Structure Terms

Can you match these narrative terms to their definitions?

Term	Definition
1 Backstory	A When a story has another story around it, or 'framing' it.
2 Cliffhanger	B When an episode from earlier in the story or before the story began is recounted. This could be to explain a character's backstory , or it could show us an important plot point.
3 Foreshadowing	C When the narrative ends on a dramatic event. This doesn't mean the end of the narrative – just that it has paused. It is a device commonly used at the end of chapters to ensure the reader continues.
4 Flashback	D When events in the future are hinted at.
5 Flashforward	E When a story starts in the middle – often at the point of climax. The narrative may then return to the beginning of the story using flashback .
6 Framing device	F When the narrative reveals important information about a character's background, which happened before the narrative began.
7 In media res	G When something completely unexpected and different to what has been hinted at, happens within a story.
8 Red herring	H When the narrative fast forwards to a point in the future.
9 Twist	I false clue which has the reader believing one thing, when in fact another is true.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Term	Definition
1 Backstory	F When the narrative reveals important information about a character's background, which happened before the narrative began.
2 Cliffhanger	C When the narrative ends on a dramatic event. This doesn't mean the end of the narrative – just that it has paused. It is a device commonly used at the end of chapters to ensure the reader continues.
3 Foreshadowing	D When events in the future are hinted at.
4 Flashback	B When an episode from earlier in the story or before the story began is recounted. This could be to explain a character's backstory , or it could show us an important plot point.
5 Flashforward	H When the narrative fast forwards to a point in the future.
6 Framing device	A When a story has another story around it, or 'framing' it.
7 In media res	E When a story starts in the middle – often at the point of climax. The narrative may then return to the beginning of the story using flashback .
8 Red herring	I A false clue which has the reader believing one thing, when in fact another is true.
9 Twist	G When something completely unexpected and different to what has been hinted at, happens within a story.