Describing stories

Most stories, or narratives, can be broken down into different elements. It is useful to use a combination of the different elements in order to keep the story interesting and effective.

GETTING STARTED

The words below are some of the ingredients a successful story might use. Use your dictionary to match up each word with the correct definition by drawing a line. Complete the blank boxes with the missing meanings.

1. plot
2. theme
3. twist
4. crisis
5. resolution
6. red herring
7. cliffhanger
8. event
9. climax
10. description

an important and dangerous or difficult situation
the story in a play, novel, or film
a tense and exciting ending to an episode of a story
the most interesting or important point of a story, series of events, etc
the subject about which a person speaks, writes, or thinks
a strange or unexpected development in a story or series of events

MOVING ON

To write about stories in more detail, look up the following in your dictionary.

1. dialogue
2. epilogue
3. prologue
4. prelude
5. chronicle
6. parable
7. fable
8. allegory
9. dénouement
10. moral

How many did you get right? 5 = NOVICE 10 = EXPERT 15 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.