**Major Short-Story Lit Terms**

**Irony** – a contrast or discrepancy between reality and expectation  
**Theme** – a work’s universal underlying idea about life or human nature  
**Tone** – author’s attitude towards a subject  
**Mood** – the emotional effect a work has upon the reader  
**Character** – figures' personalities and how the author reveals them (Also: Protagonist vs. Antagonist)   
**Plot** – how **Conflict** is used to progress the story (rising action; **Climax**; falling action or denouement; Resolution)   
**Setting** – the time and place of the story (which may convey Tone and Mood)   
**Style** (or **Voice**) – the attitude conveyed in the author's language and word choice; how their language 'sounds' on the page (e.g. clever, humorous, mysterious, edgy, cynical, abrasive)   
**Point Of View** – the direction of the narrative (1st person, 3rd person, etc.) and the effect of that choice