

## Dialectic Literature Assignment for Co-Op 2

In class we discussed that in literature, short stories have three main elements: characters, plot and setting.

A **Character** is a personality, whether human or non-human, in a story that exists in relationship with other characters. Characters move the story along and they are the reason many readers stay with a story. Most stories include a hero and a villain (protagonist & antagonist).

The **Plot** is the sequence of events in the story from the beginning until the end.

**Setting** is the location or situation in time, space and culture which forms the background for the story.

**Physical Setting:** The geographical place or physical space in which a story is set

**Cultural Setting:** The situation that belongs to the particular culture in which a story is set

**Temporal Setting:** The era, season, day and/or particular hours in which the plot of a story occurs

---

### Assignment for First-year Dialectic Students

Read each of the 7 tales in *Tales of O. Henry*. After each tale, write down:

The main characters (put an asterisk by the two main characters) — use bullet points

The plot in complete sentences. Condense your plot summary to a maximum of five complete sentences

The setting — use bullet points

### Assignment for Returning students

Read each of the 7 tales in *Tales of O. Henry*. After each tale, write down:

The main characters — identify the protagonist and antagonist — use bullet points

The plot in complete sentences. Condense your plot summary to a maximum of five complete sentences

Physical setting — use bullet points

Cultural setting — use bullet points

Temporal setting — use bullet points

### Scaling Assignments

For parents who are scaling assignments for their student, I suggest you choose a few key stories from *Tales of O. Henry* rather than having your student read all seven. Have your student complete the assignment after each tale you assign them to read. Please ensure they read "*The Gift of the Magi*" so we can discuss it as a class.

Students are encouraged to ask their parents for help if they don't understand an assignment. If the parent is unavailable or the parent needs additional guidance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 954-651-7290 or [costellosix@gmail.com](mailto:costellosix@gmail.com).