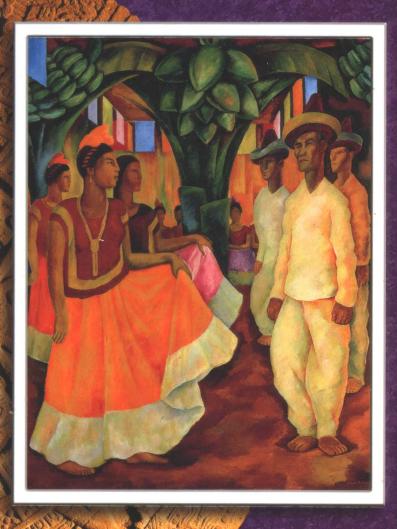
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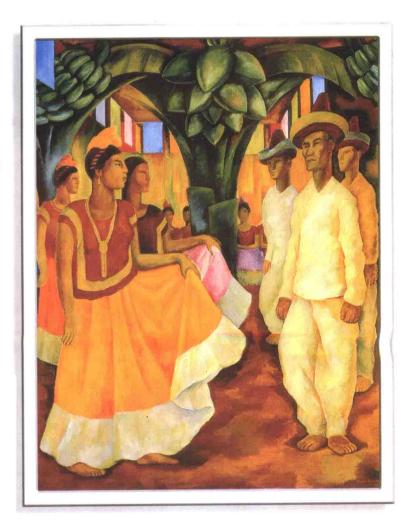
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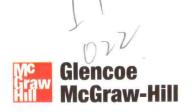


World Literature

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Program Consultants
Beverly Ann Chin
Denny Wolfe
Jeffrey Copeland
Mary Ann Dudzinski
William Ray
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World Literature

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Genre Focus

Fiction

When you talk about computers, you use terms that relate specifically to computers: you discuss megabytes, logging on, how to boot up. When you talk about science or sports, you use different sets of terms. Likewise, when people talk about literature, they use special terms—the language of literary analysis. You will find that learning to use this language can help you discuss how a work of **fiction** is created and what qualities make it effective.

What kind of literature is fiction? A work of fiction is any narrative written in prose in which the situations and characters are invented by the writer. Novels, short stories, folktales, fairy tales, fables, and other forms of made-up stories come under the category of fiction. All works of fiction include elements described on these pages. See how a story you probably already know, the fairy tale "Cinderella," can be analyzed in terms of these elements.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

MODEL: "Cinderella"

Setting

Setting is the time and place in which a story happens. The setting of a story includes not only physical surroundings, but also ideas, customs, values, and beliefs.

The story takes place a long time ago in a land ruled by a king and a queen.

Characters

Characters are the actors in a story's plot. They can be people, animals, robots, or whatever the writer chooses.

- The protagonist is the main character.
- The antagonist is the person or force in conflict with the main character. Not all stories have antagonists.

The main characters are Cinderella, the stepsisters, their mother, the fairy godmother, and the prince.

Protagonist: Cinderella

Antagonists: stepsisters, stepmother

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