Narrative Elements

There are 7 elements of narrative

1. **Plot** 
   * What happens in the story; events that occur from beginning to end.
   * Parts of the plot include:
     + *Introduction -*  the beginning of the story where the characters and setting are presented.
     + *Problem/Conflict -* where the events in the story become complicated and the problem in the story is revealed.
     + *Rising Action –* the events leading up to the climax
     + *Climax.* This is the turning point in the story in which the reader wonders what will happen next (i.e., will the problem get solved or not?)
     + *Conclusion –* This is the point in the story in which the problem is solved
   * The conflict is a struggle between forces and can be:
     + Human vs. Human
     + Human vs. Nature
     + Human vs. Society
     + Human vs. Her/Himself
2. **Setting** 
   * when and where the story occurs (time and place)
   * Place : geographical location ; w here is the action of the story taking place?
   * Time : when is the story taking place? (historical period, time of day, year, etc . )
   * Weather Conditions : is it rainy, sunny, stormy, etc?
   * Social Conditions : what is the daily life of the characters like? Does the story mention the speech, dress, mannerisms, customs, etc. of a particular place)?
3. **Character** 
   * Protagonist is the character whose actions form the basis of the plot, they are the main character, the “ hero ”
   * Antagonist is the character who opposes the protagonist and or creates obstacles for him/her or forces that work against the protagonist’s success (e.g. protagonist’s own character traits)
   * Dynamic (or Round) character is complex, multidimensional, developed, embodying a number of qualities and traits and who often changes throughout the story. They are complex and have many sides
   * Static (or Flat) character is a character that never changes (one-sided) and who embodies or represents a single characteristic, trait, or idea, or at least a small number of such qualities
4. **Atmosphere** 
   * The mood pervading the story
   * The feeling aroused in the reader by the setting, plot, characters and devices (e.g. feeling of horror, uneasiness, peace)
5. **Theme** 
   * The main point or central concept around which the story is focused.
   * Statement about life or human nature conveyed or implied through the story
   * Can be the author’s message or central insight that s/he is trying to communicate through the story
   * Examples of themes include: love, betrayal, friendship, war, etc.
6. **Point of View** 
   * Is the method of narration and can be either:
     + First person where the narrator uses “I” and tells the story from a personal perspective
     + Third person where the narrator uses “He” or “She” and tells the story as if they are not involved and are only watching the events
     + Omniscient where the narrator is all-knowing and can direct the reader's attention to the inner thoughts of any of the characters and controls the sources of information
7. **Literary Devices** 
   * Part of the style of a piece of writing, used to make it more interesting. Examples include: imagery, symbolism, humour, dramatic irony, figurative language (e.g. metaphor, simile), flashback, foreshadowing, etc.