## Timeline of Major Developments in Fiction

### Key Terms for Fiction

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<tr>
<th><strong>Point of View</strong></th>
<th><strong>Setting</strong></th>
<th><strong>Character</strong></th>
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<td>• Participant narrator &lt;br&gt; • Observer &lt;br&gt; • All-knowing or omniscient &lt;br&gt; • Editorial omniscience &lt;br&gt; • Impartial omniscience &lt;br&gt; • Limited omniscience or selective omniscience &lt;br&gt; • Objective &lt;br&gt; • Innocent or naïve narrator &lt;br&gt; • Unreliable narrator &lt;br&gt; • Stream of consciousness &lt;br&gt; • Interior monologue</td>
<td>• time and place in which story occurs &lt;br&gt; • often, descriptions of landscape, scenery, buildings, seasons or weather to provide a strong sense of setting</td>
<td>• Stock characters or types &lt;br&gt; • Believable if “act in a reasonably consistent manner &amp; author gave them motivation” (73) &lt;br&gt; • Flat—one outstanding trait or feature; remain the same &lt;br&gt; • Round—greater depth &amp; detail; tend to change &lt;br&gt; • Names for characters may often contain allusion (74) &lt;br&gt; • Hero’s &amp; antihero’s (protagonist lacking in one or more hero attributes) &lt;br&gt; • Ordinary, unglorious &lt;br&gt; • Gratuitous act—deed w/o cause or motive (modern concept; Freud’s idea that desires take place in unconscious; violated purposefully or playfully violated)</td>
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### Story Development

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<th><strong>Conflict</strong></th>
<th><strong>Irony</strong></th>
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<td>• Main character usually on one side of the central conflict. &lt;br&gt; • On the other side, the main character may struggle against another important character, against the forces of nature, against society, or even against something inside him or her (feelings, emotions, illness).</td>
<td>• verbal irony = either the speaker means something totally different than what he is saying or the audience realizes that the opposite of what a character is saying is true. Verbal irony also occurs when a character says something in joking way that, in actuality, is true &lt;br&gt; • dramatic irony = when facts are not known to the characters in a work of literature but are known by the audience &lt;br&gt; • cosmic irony = some unknown force brings about dire and dreadful events</td>
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**Timeline of Major Developments in Fiction & Key Terms for Fiction**

**Ancient Legends, Myths, & Epics**
- Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt
- Local priests; reinforce religious morals & power structures
- Traveling storytellers; poetry; entertainment over period of days
- Examples: stories of Troy, *The Iliad, Aeneas, Oedipus, Aesop’s fables, Jesus’ parables*

**Medieval Storytelling**
- Stories develop into fine art using ancient models
- Vernacular texts appearing (Old & Middle English); no longer just Greek & Latin writings
- Examples: Arthurian legend; lays of Marie de France (12th c.); Boccaccio’s *Decameron* (14th c.); & Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* (14th c.)

**Beginnings of Modern Fiction**
- Renaissance; mid 16th & early 17th c.; altered view of human nature; idea that people “could become moral through their own efforts” (Roberts 55)
- People “of all social stations and ways of life [seen] as important literary topics” (55)
- Spanish & French romances (a.k.a. novels) portray adventure (55)

**Fiction Flourishes**
- Increased education & literacy in 18th c. (56); “large, literate middle class wanted to see their lives reflected in faithful mirrors” (Kennedy & Gioia 14)
- Informal essays & reading novels as social activity; monthly installments of novels (56)
- Writers could make living from readers never seen nor met (56)

**Short Stories**
- Late 18th & early 19th c. Diderot, Scott, Irving, Hawthorne, Poe, Maupassant, Chekhov, etc. concentrate fiction “to be read at a single sitting” in response to busy lifestyles (56)

**Development of the Genre**
- Critics postulate definite short story structures: O. Henry’s surprise ending, Chekhov’s slice of life, etc. (Harmon & Holman 480)
- Realism & naturalism “force open” the genre; dominant form of literary expression in 20th c. (480)
- Examples: Maugham & Mansfield in U.K.; Anderson, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, & Carver in U.S.A.