

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LITERARY ELEMENTS IN HISTORICAL FICTION

Character:

- *characters behave in realistic ways:
 - all may be fictional
 - some may be real while others are fictional
 - main character may have actually lived
 - character may be fictitious but based on person who actually lived
 - main character may be fictitious while other characters in story actually lived
- *characters are vividly described
- *conversations of characters are usually fictitious
- *characters' words show personalities
- *characters' words reflect what people knew & thought about in those times

Setting:

- *Time: an authentic period in history
- *Place: - a real historical place
 - vividly described

Problem:

- *main characters are involved in a conflict or dilemma that is realistic to the time period

Plot:

- *based on real events that are mixed with fictional events
- *events make sense and end with a solution to the problem
- *events are vividly described
- *character's words (dialogue) move plot along

Theme:

- *achievement, success
- *persistence and determination
- *overcoming adversity

Other:

- *the author explains historical information that may be unfamiliar to readers
- *historical accuracy is used in describing places, events & facts, customs & behaviors of the people