Thursday, 15th September 2016

Structural elements of a novel

-Title

- Structure

- Characters

- Settings (space and time + environment)

- Narrative technique

- Use of language

- Theme

Elements of analysis

When speaking about a character you have to distinguish between a “flat” character (who remains the same along the story, it doesn’t change and it doesn’t show a parabola or a development) and a “round” character (which personality develops along the novel).

How does a character come to life?

A character is made of language.

A narrator can use different techniques when he brings a character to life.

1. Telling-> it tells the reader everything about the character; everything the reader knows, all the ideas the reader made up about the character, is filtered by the narrator.
2. Showing -> the narrator shows the character in action (for ex. through a direct dialogue)

What is the position of the reader in the two cases?

1. If the narrator mainly uses the technique of telling, the reader is less free to make up a personal idea;
2. If the most frequent technique is the technique of showing, he can make a more personal idea of the character.

Chapter 1, part 2

The new character

1. Very different from Vic Wilcox
2. Her ideas/cultural convictions: she doesn’t believe in the concept of character
3. Her language: “that is to say” (a favourite phrase of her own)
4. Her name: Robyn (ideal person, socially committed)
5. Her surname: Penrose (the reader might expect she’s a writer)
6. Her job: she teaches at Rummidge university
7. Her social status is not stable
8. Her skills are mainly in the field of literature
9. Her specific convictions: the character is a bourgeois myth

* 3rd person omniscient intrusive narrator