

The 6 Basic Elements

- 1 Plot—The arrangement of the incidents that make up a story
- 2 Character—The people the story is about
- 3 Theme—The broad idea, moral or message of the story, usually implicit rather than explicit
- 4 Language—The way language is used in the story—word, choice, rhythm, syntax etc
- 5 Style or Genre—The way the story is told
- 6 Spectacle—The pictorial aspects of the story

These correspond roughly to Aristotle's Poetics but are principally useful as a way to make sense of the ways a particular story affects you (the viewer)

For a thorough discussion of Aristotle's Poetics see

<http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmanus/poetics.html>