BASIC LITERARY ELEMENTS

MAJOR CHARACTER

Plot revolves around him/her

MAJOR CHARACTER - PROTAGONIST

Plot revolves around him/her

MAJOR CHARACTER - PROTAGONIST

Plot revolves around him/her

ANTAGONIST

The protagonist's opposition

DYNAMIC

Character changes over time

Change involves the plot's main conflict

DYNAMIC

Character changes over time

Change involves the plot's main conflict

PROTAGONIST

ANTAGONIST

DYNAMIC

STATIC

STATIC

Character does not change over time

Personality stays the same

STATIC

Character does not change over time

Personality stays the same

ROUND

Complex personality

Man vs. Himself

ROUND

Complex personality

Man vs. Himself

FLAT

One or two personality traits

ROUND VS. DYNAMIC

Not the same thing

FLAT VS. STATIC

Not the same thing

STOCK

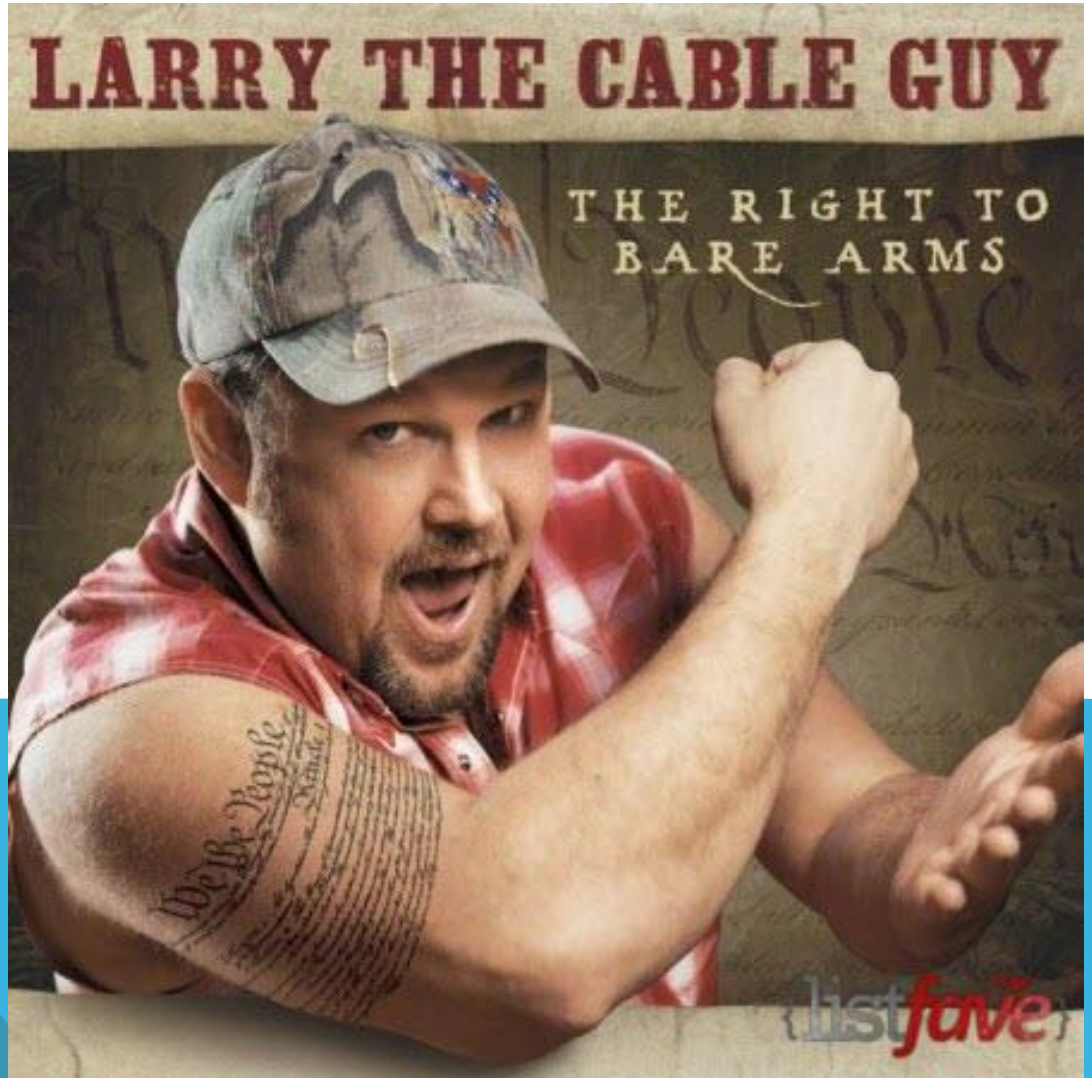
Used over and over

STOCK

Used over and over

STOCK

Used over and over



FOIL

Any character whose personal qualities clash with another character

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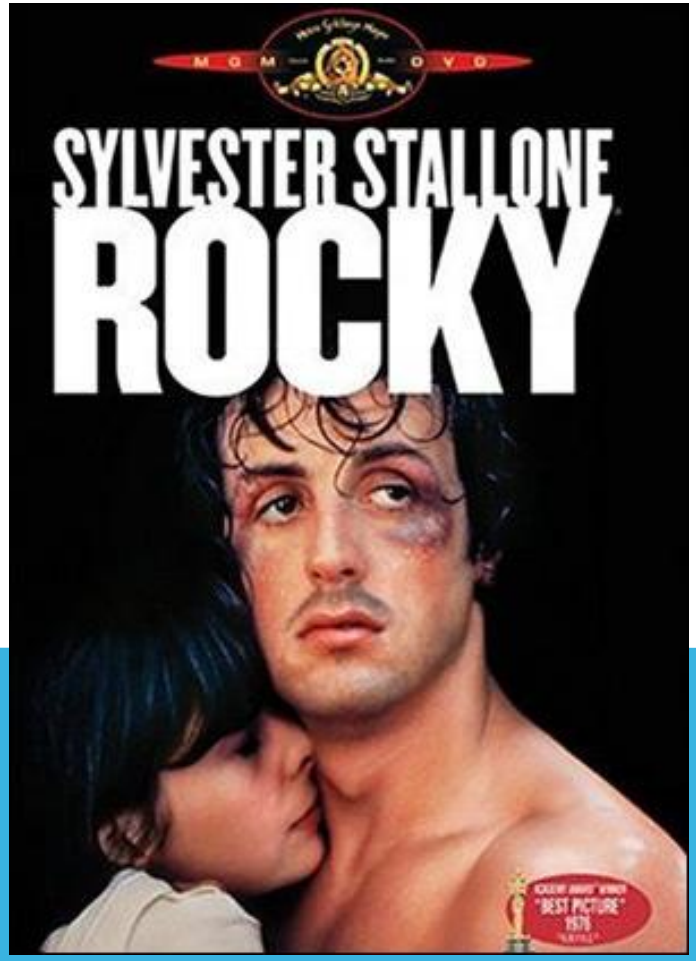

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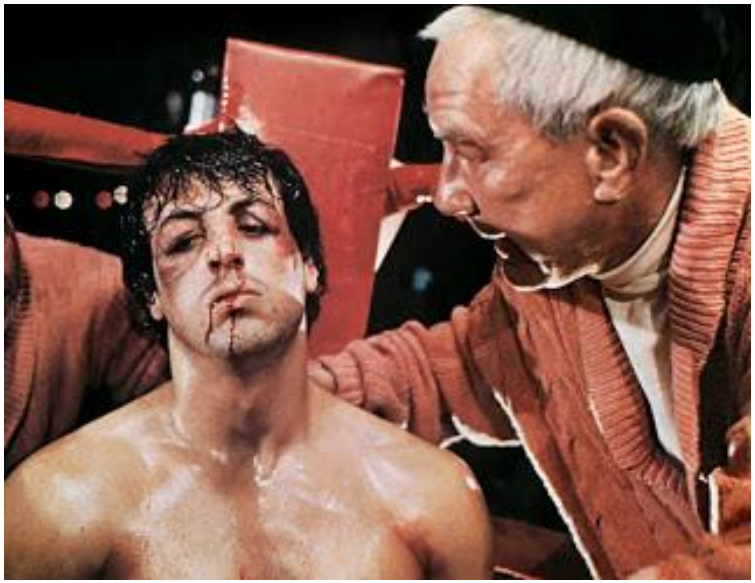
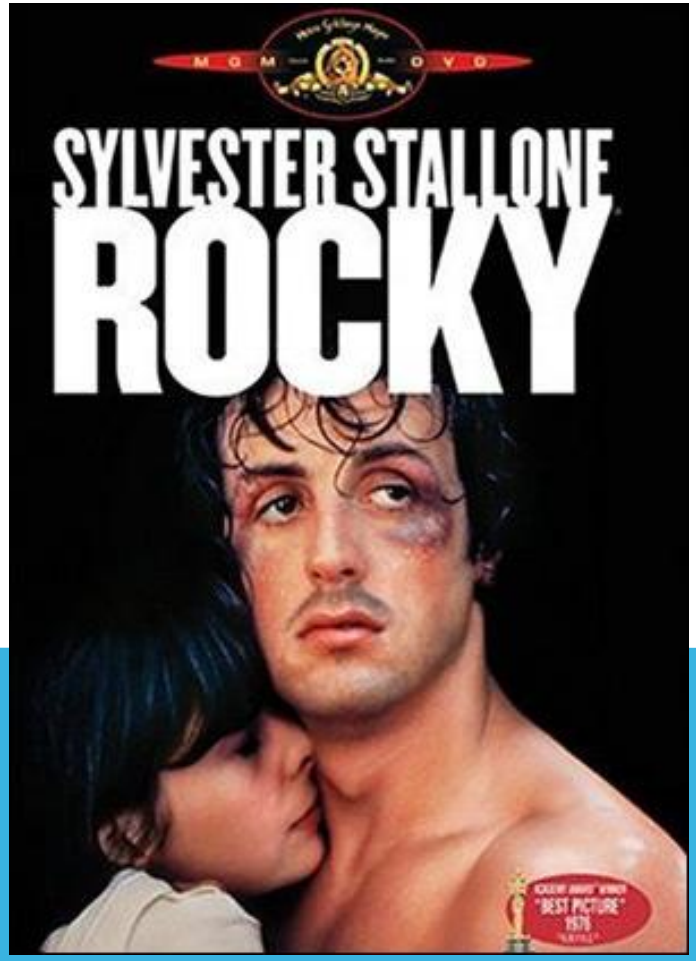
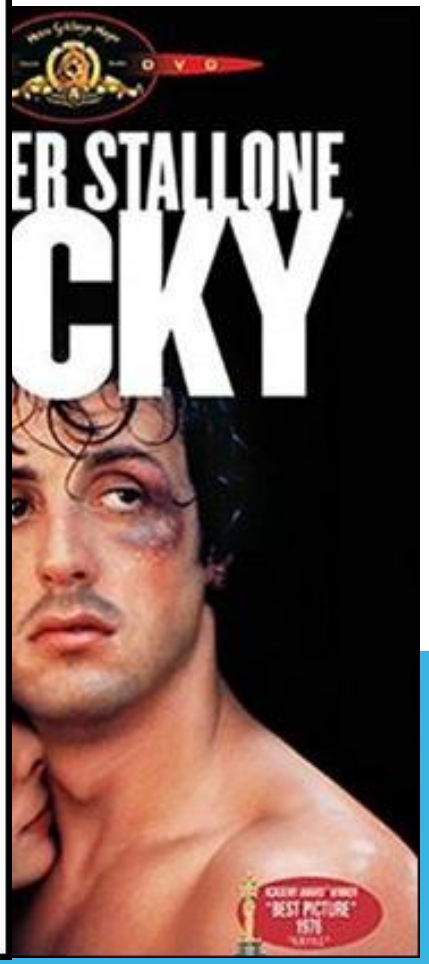




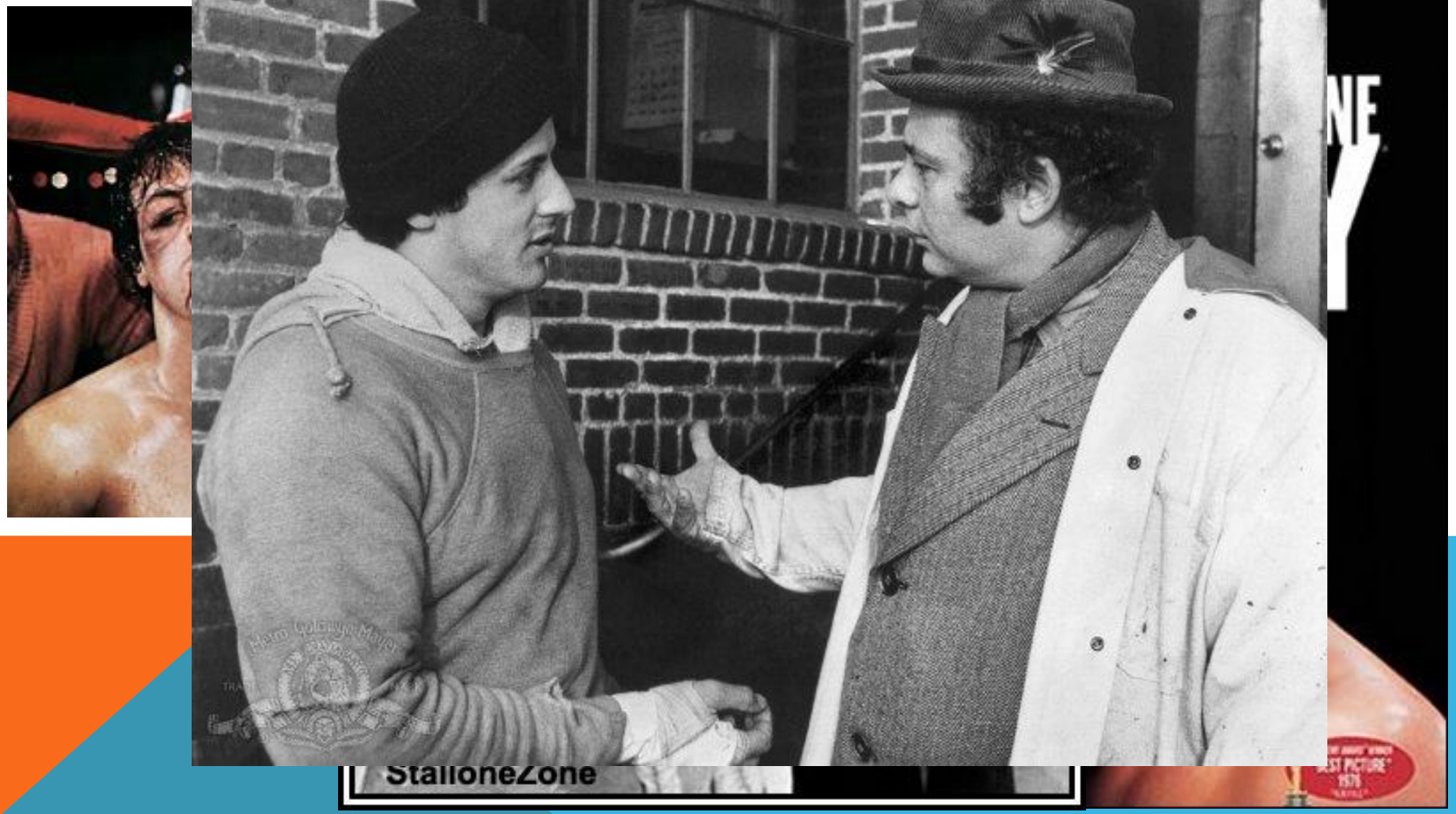
FOIL

Any char[illegible]ities clash with a[illegible]



FOIL

Any char ities clash with a



FOIL

PLOT

PLOT

Plot refers to the series of events that give a story its meaning and effect.

EVENTS FOLLOW A PATTERN

- Chronological

EVENTS FOLLOW A PATTERN

- Chronological

FOLLOWING A PATTERN

- Circular

FOLLOWING A PATTERN

- Circular

CONFLICT

CONFLICT

- A clash of actions, ideas, desires

In most stories, these events arise out of **conflict** experienced by the main character.

CONFLICT

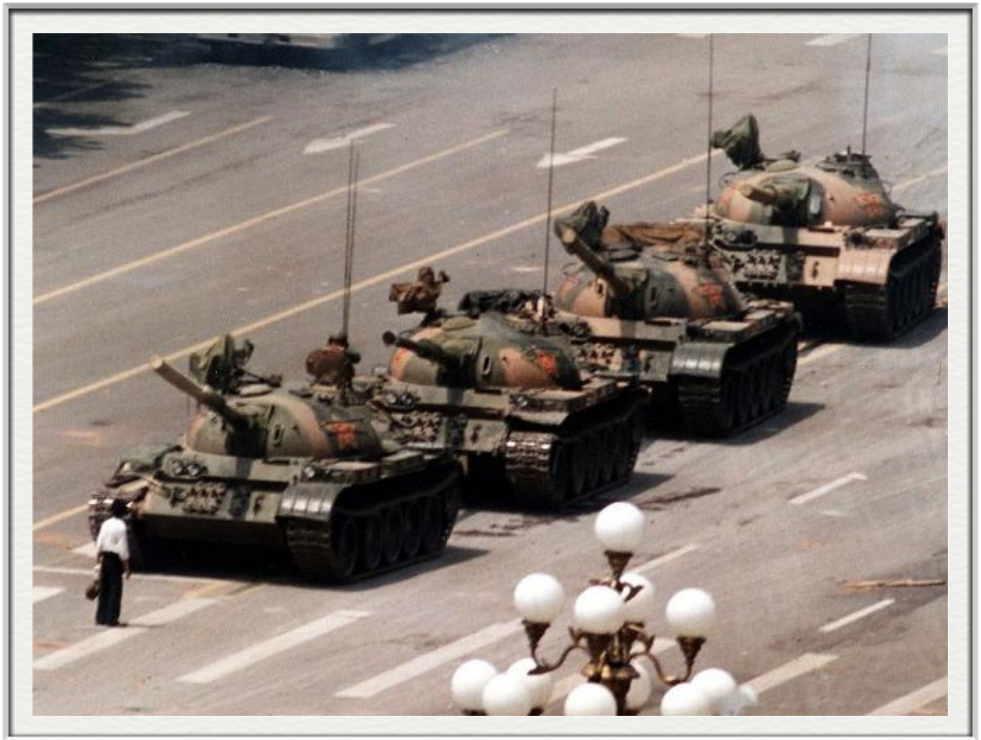
- Four types…

MAN VS. MAN

MAN VS. EXTERNAL FORCE

NATURE…

...OR SOCIETY



MAN VS. HIMSELF

MAN VS. TECHNOLOGY

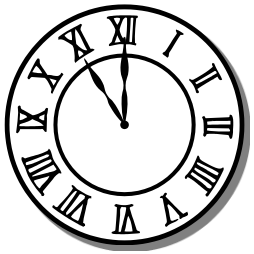
SETTING

SETTING

Setting is the "where and when" of a story. It is the time and place during which the story takes place.

SETTING

Time and place are where the action occurs



Details that describe:

- ✓Furniture
- ✓Scenery
- ✓Customs
- ✓Transportation
- ✓Clothing
- ✓Dialects
- ✓Weather
- ✓Time of day
- ✓Time of year

THE FUNCTIONS OF A SETTING

- To create a mood or atmosphere
- To show a reader a different way of life
- To make action seem more real
- To be the source of conflict or struggle
- To symbolize an idea

MOOD

Mood is the feeling that the author tries to convey throughout the story. The atmosphere or emotional condition created by the piece, within the setting. Does the author want the reader to be *frightened* or *sad*, or does the story make the reader *laugh* and *think happy thoughts*?

To figure out mood, examine how you feel while reading the story. Often mood is conveyed by the story's setting.

POINT OF VIEW

First Person Point of View- a character from the story is telling the story; uses the pronouns “I” and “me”

Third Person Point of View- an outside narrator is telling the story; uses the pronouns “he”, “she”, “they”

TWO TYPES OF THIRD-PERSON POINT OF VIEW

Third-Person Limited

- The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings on only ONE character in a story.

Third-Person Omniscient

- The narrator knows the thoughts and feeling of ALL the characters in a story.

WHAT IS A THEME?

Theme: Life lesson, meaning, moral, or message about life or human nature that is communicated by a literary work.

In other words…

Theme is what the story teaches readers.

THEMES

A theme is not a word, it is a sentence.

You don't have to agree with the theme to identify it.

Examples

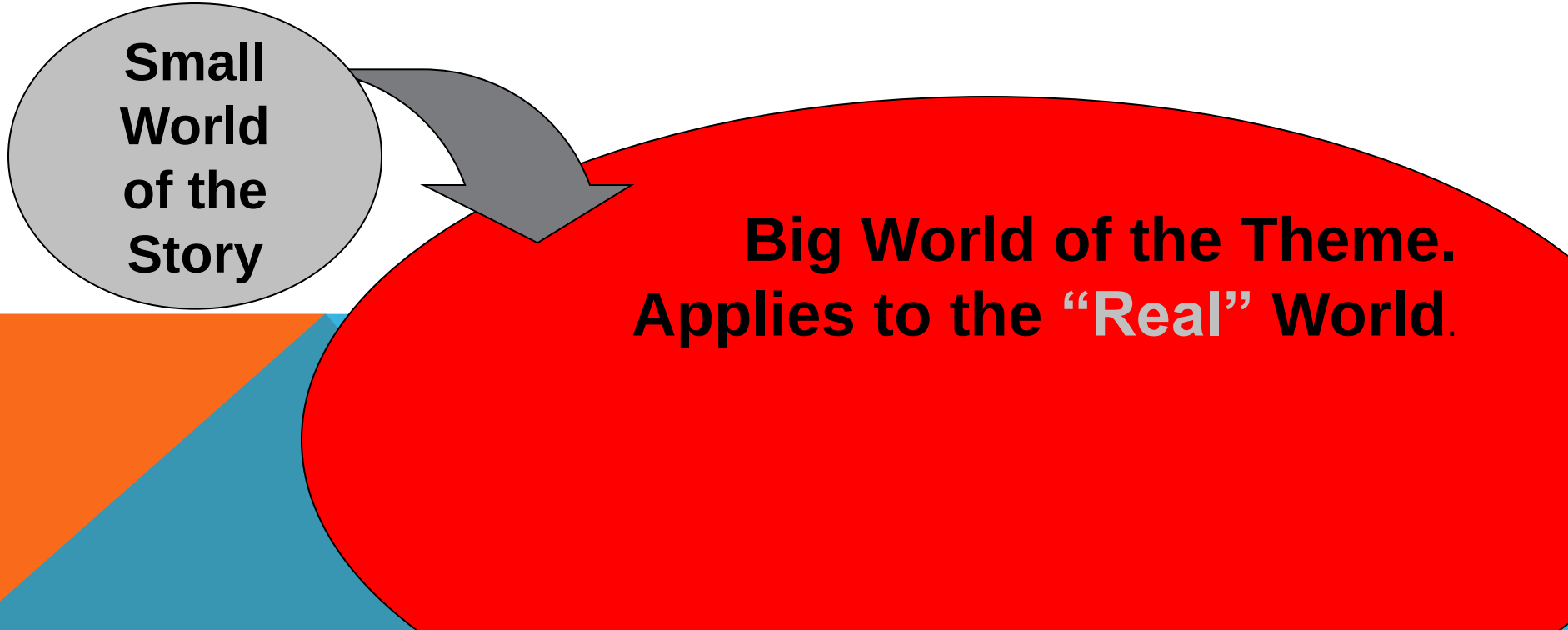
Money can't buy happiness.

Don't judge people based on the surface.

It is better to die free than live under tyranny.

IDENTIFYING THEMES

Themes are not explicit (clearly stated).

Themes are implied.

Themes are bigger than the story.