**PHRASES AND WORD-COMBINATIONS**

### Plot

1. The *plot* of the story is 🡪 open

🡮 close

1. The plot is flashback / foreshadowing/allusion/alludes to
2. The basic *plot* of the story develops slowly / rapidly/dynamically towards a violent dramatic incident and an ironical conclusion
3. The *plot* of the story centers around…
4. The *plot* of the story is based (up)on (real events, a real love story, a fairy tale, etc.)
5. The *plot* develops around…
6. The events unfold…
7. The story has an interesting / entertaining / exciting / gripping / amusing / enjoyable / funny / witty / banal / skilfully developed / slow-moving / fast-moving *plot*.
8. To contain (violent physical action, intrigues, mixed identities, disguises, secret letters, fights on land, at sea, dangerous missions, hairbreadth escapes, significant actions; physical, mental, emotional, moral conflicts; clashes of ideas, desires, wills; combats, challenges; an element of surprise, coincidences; accident, chance, etc.)
9. To have a happy ending (an unhappy ending)
10. To be a classical / modern interpretation of the theme

**Setting**

1. The action takes place in…
2. The story is set in…
3. To cover the time span of…

**Conflict**

1. Internal and external
2. a problem, dilemma
3. The central *conflict* of the story is …
4. The *conflict* is moral (physical, mental, aesthetic, ethic, moral, emotional; single / multiple; clear-cut / subtle, easily identifiable, various; internal / external)

**Plot structure**

1. exposition / onset / complication / climax / denouement (outcome)/conclusion
2. The passage is logically organized
3. The extract is logically divided into …
4. To be masterfully arranged
5. to be placed in the most effective order / chronologically
6. to make a logical progression
7. to grow out of (the preceding event)
8. to lead logically to (the next episode)
9. to be linked together in a chain of cause-and-effect
10. chaotic composition
11. straight line/ single line/ uni-linear narrative presentation / complex narrative structure / circular pattern / frame structure
12. the introductory / opening passage of the story presents …
13. the climax comes when…
14. to form the climax of (the exposition, outcome of)
15. to reach its climax
16. culmination point / climactic point
17. In the exposition the author introduces the theme/ the characters and establishes the setting.
18. The exposition contains the necessary preliminaries leading to the events of the plot, casts light on the circumstances influencing the development of characters and supplies some information
19. The passages stand in sharp semantic contrast to each other.

**Form of narration**

1. The extract (text) under study presents a piece of narration / description / a character drawing / a piece of narration intercepted with dialogue
2. narrative methods/devices: narration / description / dialogue / author’s digression

interior monologue / stream of consciousness / represented speech / inner reaction / auto-dialogue

1. The story is a first / third person narration/narrative
2. entrusted narrative
3. the story is a combination of the author’s narration and the characters’ dialogue / the description and represented speech
4. to resort to / to use the narrative / descriptive / cycling / chronological / frame pattern
5. to alternate between narration / description / dialogue / digressions
6. to abandon / reject the traditional form of narrative

**Author / narrator**

1. The story is told by the effaced author
2. omniscient / intrusive / unobtrusive author / objective / personified
3. …serves to convey to the reader the mood of the narrator / author
4. to identify the narrator and the author
5. the narrator is the author’s mouthpiece
6. the author is talented / gifted / genuine / incomparable / unrivalled / commonplace / superficial
7. to discover the world
8. to offer food for thought
9. to explore (the complexity of human character, smb’s inner world)
10. to create a broad panorama of
11. to idealise / glorify / immortalise
12. to ridicule / mock smb. for / satirize
13. to represent / render / convey (one’s passion, love for, one’s inner vision of, one’s mental condition)
14. to draw a parallel between
15. to lay a special emphasis on
16. to focus on one’s observations

to provide extensive background information

**Characters**

1. system of images
2. the character’s image / an object’s image / the landscape image
3. character images: real / unreal
4. Character / personage/ protagonist / antagonist / hero / villain
5. Round/ dynamic / developing /flat/ static / character
6. Main / major / central / principal;

secondary / minor;

complex / round / many-sided / flat / simple;

positive / negative;

hero / villain;

ambiguous / easy to understand / clearly motivated / lifelike / well / poorly-drawn / drawn with great skill

1. to be clearly labeled as good or bad;
2. to be (in)directly presented
3. to be characterized by (one or many traits)
4. to characterize explicitly / implicitly
5. direct / indirect presentation
6. to be a man / woman of marked individuality
7. to lack individuality
8. to be a man of character / to be a man of no character
9. to be a model of
10. to be a real angel, a real saint, a paragon of virtue / a monster of evil
11. to be in conflict with (people, society, system of values, Nature, fate, oneself)
12. to be opposed to (contrasted with)
13. to be portrayed / depicted / presented / revealed through action / speech / outward appear once / the world of things that surround smb. / psychological portrayal
14. to serve as a foil to
15. to be haunted by (fear, anxiety, etc.)
16. to set off the difference between
17. the hero’s feelings are the focus of the writer’s attention
18. the author demonstrates his ability to create appealing characters, to place them in amusing situations
19. to give sketchy portraits of

**Atmosphere**

1. tense / idyllic atmosphere
2. to be primarily conveyed by
3. to be intensified / reinforced by
4. to evoke a definite emotional response
5. to have an impact on the reader
6. to strengthen / to arouse a feeling of
7. to help the reader to gain the atmosphere of / a sense of
8. to increase the tension of
9. the prevalent mood is cheerfulness / suspense / gloom / nervousness
10. the devices to which the writer resorts contribute to a realistic presentation of
11. tension springs from…
12. to be typical of / to be characteristic of / to be peculiar to

**Style**

1. the general slant of the text is satirical / humorous / pathetic / unemotional / matter-of-fact
2. the story is written in a lyrical / dramatic / pathetic / ironical key
3. style / language: clear / plain / simple

pretentious / unpretentious

direct / obscure

terse / compact / concise

rapid / abrupt

picturesque / ornate

life-like / lively / vivid / grave / forcible / intense

matter-of-fact / laconic / pithy

high-flown / colloquial

flowing / heavy / wordy

allusive / metaphorical

1. to serve for (character drawing, speech characterization)
2. to be marked by
3. to lack
4. to abound in
5. to suit exactly (the theme revelation, characterization)
6. to create a local / social / historical / professional / realistic background
7. to help to convey the author’s central purpose / to bring out the controlling idea / to reveal the author’s attitude to / to emphasise the message
8. to be employed to characterize / to stress / to strengthen / to arouse a feeling of
9. to be applied to give a vivid colourful description of / to create a comic (humorous) effect / to make the narration more exact and concrete / to establish an emotional, tragic, dramatic tone, etc.
10. to be appropriate to (the total meaning)
11. to lend expressivity / force to the text
12. to be interwoven with
13. to contribute much / little effect
14. to work together to accomplish the author’s attention
15. to be the underlying stylistic device
16. the writer makes ample use of stylistic devices / the writer uses stylistic devices sparingly
17. the devices to which the writer resorts to contribute to a realistic presentation of the characters
18. the contrast is reflected in the language, especially in the syntactical organization of passages: the unhurried, even archaic structures, rhetorical questions, detachment
19. the emotional state of the character is revealed not only through the syntax, but also through the abundance of most subjective stylistic means – epithets
20. the whole analysed extract is a wonderful example of the author’s consistency in the realization of his creative scheme: the main function of all the numerous and various stylistic means, utilized in the passage is the same – to achieve a humorous effect
21. (stylistic device) is used to enliven the narration / to make the meaning more concrete / to hold the reader’s interest / to add colourful details / to evoke emotional response in the readers / to produce a humorous effect / to convince the reader to stress