

Prince Fortinbras?" Then Snow White pulled herself together. "Well it is terrific to be anticipating a prince—to be waiting and knowing that what you are waiting for is a prince, packed with grace—but it is still waiting, and waiting as a mode of existence is, as Brack has noted, a darksome mode. . . . I wonder if he will have the Hapsburg Lip?"

(See: *cliché*.)

Story One use of the word is as synonymous with *short story, describing a work of approximately 10,000 words or less, as distinct from a novella or novel.

In another sense, the word "story" first was used by Russian formalist writers to describe the raw material of a work, with its events told chronologically, with little attention paid to the reasons why these events took place.

"Story" is differentiated from *"plot" in that plot organizes the events of the story into a particular order, which may not be chronological, but which may include, for example, *flashbacks and *flash-forwards. In arranging a plot, the author might choose to emphasize some details while de-emphasizing others, and might include authorial *digressions or comments on the events. The story, on the other hand, simply is a chronological record of the events that occur over the course of the period covered by the plot.

The story of a novel like Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* can be summarized in a few paragraphs; the plot, with its many dislocations of chronology, asides, puns and digressions, would take nearly as long as the novel itself to recount.

E.M. Forster defines the difference between plot and story somewhat differently. He calls story the narration of the events told in the chronological sequence in which they occur, while plot is the narration of the events with the emphasis on the reasons for the events' taking place, their cause-and-effect sequence.

"Story" is also sometimes used synonymously with *"tale," something that can be told orally. (See: *plot, short story, tale*.)

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