

FICTION: "The Space Rock" • SKILL: Literary Elements and Devices, page 1 of 4

Back to Basics: Literary Elements and Devices

Identifying the basic elements of a literary work can help you understand it better. Use this activity to help you understand "The Space Rock." See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of Karl, Daddy, and one character of your choice: (1) decide whether the character is **major** or **minor**; (2) briefly describe the character, including his or her appearance, personality, and background; and (3) decide whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and explain why.

A. KARL is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

B. DADDY is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

C. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He/She is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

2. Give two examples of **indirect characterization** of Karl.

3. Give two examples of **indirect characterization** of Daddy.

4. What are the main characteristics of Sister and Brother? How does the narrator differ from them?

Section 2: Setting

5. Where does the story take place? Describe the **setting**.

6. How does the family feel about where they live? What clues does the author give about this?

Section 3: Point of View

7. From which **point of view** is "The Space Rock" told? Check one:

- first person** **third-person limited**

How do you know? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

8. How might the story be different if told from the **third-person omniscient** perspective?

Section 4: Tone and Mood

9. List at least two adjectives that describe the **tone** of the story. _____

Explain how the author established that **tone**. Which words and details tell you how the author feels about the characters and the subject matter?

10. What is the **mood** of the story? Does it stay the same throughout the story, or does it change? Explain.

Explain how the author established the **mood**. Which **imagery**, words, ideas, **characters**, and aspects of the **setting** or **plot** caused you to feel the way you did?

Section 5: Plot

11. There are three jumps forward in time in the story. Where do they occur?

12. How does the family's financial situation affect the plot of the story?

13. What is the primary **conflict** in the story? Is it **internal** or **external**? Explain.

14. What is the **climax** of the story? How do you know?

15. Based on the poem on page 24, what can you infer happens in Rock Creek after the story ends?
