

NARRATION, NARRATIVE:

Narration is the act of telling a sequence of events, often in chronological order.

Alternatively, the term refers to any story, whether in prose or verse, involving events, characters, and what the characters say and do. A narrative is likewise the story or account itself. Some narrations are reportorial and historical, such as biographies, autobiographies, news stories, and historical accounts.

In narrative fiction common to literature, the narrative is usually creative and imaginative rather than strictly factual, as evidenced in fairy tales, legends, novels, novelettes, short stories, and so on. However, the fact that a fictional narrative is an imaginary construct does not necessarily mean it isn't concerned with imparting some sort of truth to the reader, as evidenced in [exempla](#), [fables](#), [anecdotes](#), and other sorts of narrative.

The narrative can begin [ab ovo](#) (from the start and work its way to the conclusion), or it can begin [in medias res](#) (in the middle of the action, then recount earlier events by the character's dialogue, memories, or flashbacks).

From <http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_N.html>

Plot and narrative structure:

Linear:

The plot, stuff that happens, is in chronological order.

Non-linear:

The plot is not presented in chronological order. The author uses flashbacks, or flash-forwards.

Chronological narrative with flashbacks:

As name suggests, this is a plot that is in chronological order, which uses flashbacks/forwards at various points.

Circular Narratives:

Starts at the end, then jumps back in time to the beginning.

Parallel Narratives:

Where there are two separate storylines, which end up being connected.

Subplots:

In most novels the main storyline is what we focus on, but there are often other 'side-stories'. These are the subplots. For example, the romance between Nick and Jordan.

Narrative perspective:

First person:

Told from point of view of one character, as an experiential plot.

Third person:

Told from an omniscient, all-knowing, perspective.

Narrative shape/tension:

How the drama of the text plays out, as you read you will notice the dramatic tension in the text, the actions that build it up and the moments where it is resolved or subsides.

