

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 "Dear Future" by Nicholas Montemarano.

See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

## Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of James and Annie: (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. JAMES is a  **major**  **minor** (check one) character.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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

2. Give two examples of **indirect characterization** of James's mom. Explain what each reveals about her.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the **antagonist** in this story? Explain.

---

---

---

## Section 2: Point of View

4. From which **point of view** is "Dear Future" told? Check one:

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

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

---

---

---

5. How might the story be different if it were told from each of the two points of view you did NOT select above?

---

---

---

## Section 3: Setting

6. **A.** Where does most of the story take place? \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** What words and phrases are used to describe the setting?

---

---

---

7. How does James feel about the basement used-book sale at the beginning of the story?

---

---

---

## Section 4: Mood

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

9. What does James learn from his conversations with Annie and his parents?

---

---

---

---

---

10. How are James's parents affected by Annie's journal?

---

---

---

---

---