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Exposition in literature meaning

In literature, exposition is a form of writing that explains what happens or happened in a story in a very real way. Exposition can present background information about the action or characters, explain details about the environment, convey a sense of historical context, and so on. Authors are often advised to keep exposition to a minimum so as not to bore the reader, or at least include exposition in such a way that it does not smug the story. However, exposition is a necessary part of almost all stories as a way of conveying important information. Philosophers Alexander Bain and John Genung named the exhibition as one of four modes of discourse, along with description, argumentation and storytelling. Each of them has its own unique purposes and forms, and was created and developed in different ways. The word exposition comes from the Latin word *expositio*, which meant setting or showing. What does The Show mean, Don't Tell? Most writers who start to come across the phrase show, don't speak. This means that most of the story should be written in dramatic action and with sensory detail, not explained to the reader in the exposé. Readers feel much more involved in the story when they feel they can clearly imagine the events taking place. It may feel condescending, on the other hand, for the author to simply tell the reader what is going on and how he feels about it instead of allowing the reader to experience it and create his own judgments. Consider the following two examples: He senses movement outside dark trees. Shivering in the moist air, strains the eyes against the weakening of the light. For a brief moment, two golden eyes shine back on him, and he hears whispers of paws against crumbling leaves. His throat is drying out. Peter was always afraid of tigers, and it was a well-known fact that there were many tigers in the jungle in which he traveled. He was particularly afraid of that. One day when he was in the jungle he saw a tiger, and he was very scared. In the first example, the author presents sensory details that attract the reader, while in the second example the author tells the reader all the essential information and the reader does not experience any fear for himself. Although the phrase show it, does not speak perhaps the most repeated advice given to writers, there is some backlash against it. It is important that the writer knows exactly what to show and compresses other parts about which the reader does not need to know every detail. In short, the author must make a story in the story, that is, use some exposition. Common examples of exposition We often use exposition when we tell friends and family about our days. Exposition has a feeling this happened, then this happened, then this, and so The following sentences, which can be found in everyday language, are examples of the presentation: You know who I'm talking about. Betty, the one who worked in the library and always wears her hair in a bun. My day was terrible. First, some guy spilled coffee on me at Starbucks. Then I was late for the meeting and my boss yelled at me. Then I forgot to save the report before closing the computer and lost the whole day's work. It was amazing to visit the pyramids in Egypt. They're so big and weird against the rest of the landscape. Archaeologists are still not entirely sure how they were built. Some forms of writing that we often encounter, but are not literary, are told entirely in exposition. For example, newspaper articles, academic papers and business reports are written almost exclusively at the presentation. The significance of exposition in literature Although authors often try to limit the amount of exposition in a story, yet exposition is very important in almost every novel and play ever written. This is not necessary in poetry, and is very rarely found there, although sometimes the writer of a longer poem includes some moments of exposition. The authors use the presentation for a number of reasons. As stated in the definition of exposition, exposition is important for providing key information. One of the key reasons for using it is to skip the information that the reader needs to know in order to understand the action, but does not have to experience firsthand. Exposition is also important to fill backstory and setup without dwelling on them too. In fact, if the story did not contain exposition and only sensory details, the reader may not know which of the dramatic moments is less and less important. Exposition is also an important aspect of mystery and thriller when the leak comes and the author must quickly fill the reader on exactly what happened. Examples of exposition in literature Example #1 Founders of the new colony, regardless of the Utopia of human virtue and happiness that they could originally project, have always recognized it among their earliest practical needs to take part of virgin soil as a cemetery and the other part as a place of imprisonment. In accordance with this rule, it can be safely assumed that the ancestors of Boston built the first prison house, somewhere near Cornhill, almost as seasonal as they marked the first cemetery, in Isaac Johnson's parking lot, and round around his grave, which later became the core of all the assembled sepulchers in the old churchyard of the King's Chapel. (Scarlet letter from Nathaniel Hawthorne) This excerpt is from the very beginning of the Scarlet Letter. In Hawthorne's day, it was common for the early parts of the novel to contain a good portion of the exposition. This is now more common for start with a hook, that is, drop the reader in the middle of the action. However, many authors choose to start their stories with a broad explanation of the setting and characters that the reader will encounter. An #2 I will reconstruct for you as much as possible. I'm inclined to think that Ms. Howard was the mastermind behind this affair. Remember she once mentioned that her father was a doctor? Maybe she gave his meds to him, or maybe she took an idea from one of the many books that lied about when Mademoiselle Cynthia was studying for the exam. In any case, she was familiar with the fact that adding bromide to a mixture containing strychnine would cause precipitation of the latter. Probably her idea came out of the blue. Ms. Inglethorp had a box of bromide powders, which she occasionally took at night. What could be easier quietly than dissolving one or more of those powders in a large bottle of Mrs. Inglethorp's medicine when it came from Coot's? (A mysterious affair in Styles by Agatha Christie) Renowned mystery writer Agatha Christie used many examples of exposition in her stories. Because her mysteries are so complicated, much of the end of each novel involves a long amount of exposition in which her detectives (or Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple) explain exactly what happened at each stage of the crime and investigation. An #3 Harry was a year old the night Voldemort — the most powerful wizard of the Darkness century, a wizard who had been gaining power for eleven years — arrived at his house and killed his father and mother. Voldemort then turned his wand on Harry, he pulled off a curse that got rid of many adult witches and wizards in his constant rise to power—and, incredibly, failed. (Harry Potter and the Fire Cup by J. K. Rowling) J.K. Rowling encountered an interesting problem as she entered her seven-book series on Harry Potter. Many of her readers had been with her since the first book, but as her popularity grew there were plenty of readers who first entered the series in the third or fourth book. In this excerpt from her fourth book, Rowling must briefly explain the origin story of Harry Potter's fundamental conflict so that readers who have not previously encountered the series will meet the main villain of the story — Voldemort — and understand why Harry is so important in his world. She must do this in a way that represents all the key information without annoying her readers who are already very familiar with all this information. Many serial authors encounter and deal with the same questions through brief moments of exposition. Test your knowledge of exposition 1. Which of these statements is the correct definition of exposition when used as a literary term? A. Piece intended to transmit information or explain it. B. A piece of writing that includes mostly sensory details. C. A great display of works of art. The answer to #1 is Show</> Answer: A is the correct answer. 2. Why do writers get advice show, do not speak? A. It's a good idea for writers to include images along with their words. B. Writers should never give any information directly to their readers. C. Readers experience the story more noticeable when presenting themselves with sensory detail rather than concise information. The answer to the #2 is Show</> Answer: C is the correct answer. 3. Which of the following passages from Harry Potter and the Fire Cup is J. K. Rowling an example of the presentation? A. And then the chair was facing Frank, and he saw what was sitting in it. His walking stick fell to the floor with a chiming. He opened his mouth and put out a scream. He screamed so loud, he never heard the words that thing on the chair said when she was lifting the wand. There was a flash of green light, the sound of haste, and Frank Bryce crumpled. He was dead before he hit the floor. B. Harry is used to boarding Platform 9 and 3/4 so far. It was simply walking straight through the seemingly solid barriers dividing platforms nine and ten. The only tricky part was to do it in an unobtrusive way, to avoid attracting bezjak attention. They did it today in groups; Harry, Ron and Hermione... went first; casually leaning against the barrier, unknowingly chating and gliding sideways through it... and as they did so, a platform of nine and three quarters materialised in front of them. C. The rocks buried the bottom of the lake. He dived in and grabbed a specially jagged one and returned to the statue. He started hacking the ropes that bind Ron, and after a few minutes of hard work, they fell apart. Ron hovered, unconscious, a few inches above the bottom of the lake, floating a little at the ebb of the water. The answer to #3 show</> Answer: B is the correct answer. This is another case in which Rowling decides to summarize information that most of her readers already know. I know.