

The Dirty Kid

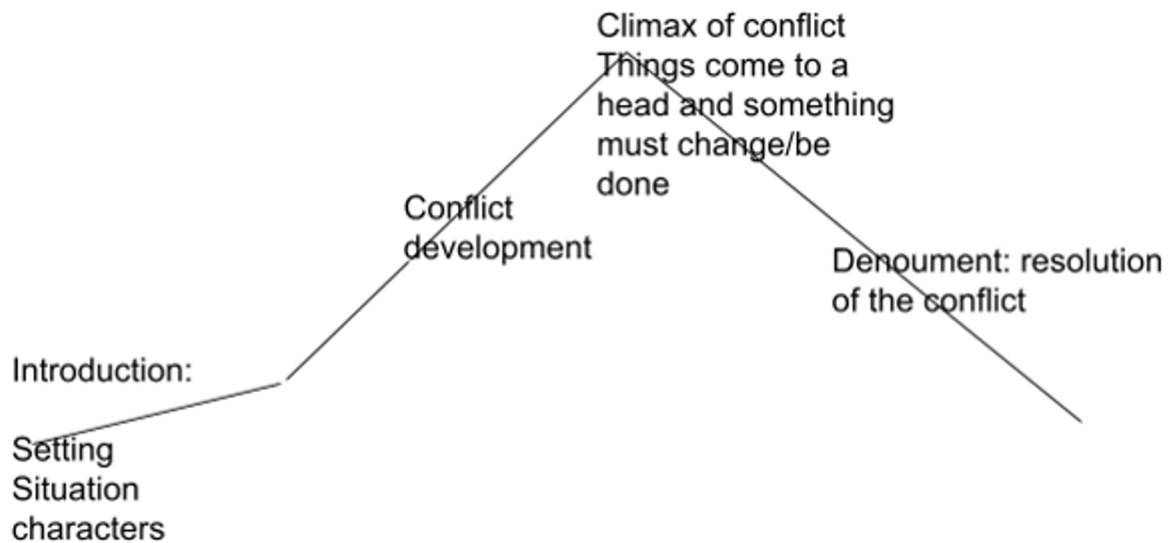
By Mariana Enriquez

Elements of Fiction

- Fiction is a narrative that is not attached to historical events or scientific facts (they have their own world or their own version of the world/events).
- The sequence of events in the narrative is described as the **plot**, and the progression of events often suggests a relationship of *cause* and *effect*
- When characters are described/explained in the story it is called the character's **exposition**

Additional Elements

- Point of view
- Theme
 - The aspect of life or the human condition that the story explores
 - The theme is often produced through *motifs*, recurring images or ideas
 - The major theme can be something common in many works of literature, such as "the perils of war," or "the struggle to survive in a changing world,"
 - The **minor theme** can convey the authors' attitude or message about the theme.



Motifs to notice in “The Dirty Kid”

- Doubles, doubleness. Are these alter egos? Evil twins? Or something else?
- Relationships between similarity and imitation and the idea of the real: What is real here? What is reliable? How do we define or verify—what are the coordinates we use to do so?
- Story within story—similar to the idea in French, *[mise en abyme](#)*.
- Symbolism of thief/treachery, sacrifice, prophecy in the Hanged Man and ending, transformation in the image of Death (skeletons).

Doubles/Mirroring/Imitations

Aristocracy

Middle class families moving into abandoned spaces of aristocracy

Mother

"I don't like her."

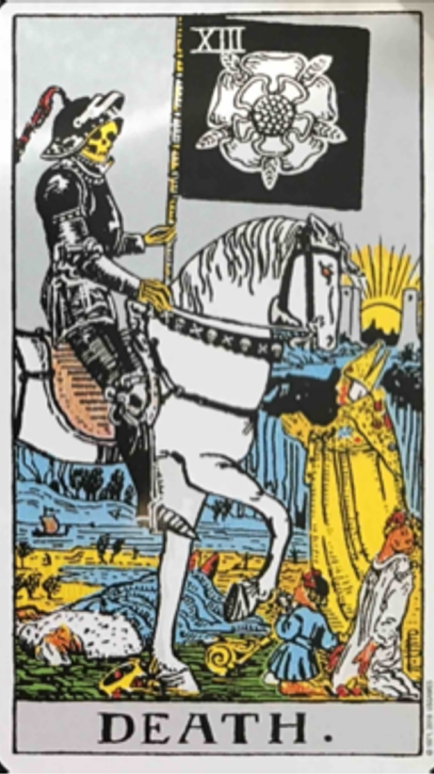
"That woman is a monster, girl,"

"I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN."

Narrator with maternal interest in "the dirty kid,"
Possibly imagines herself to care more about
the kid than his mother does

Gender normative woman (idea)
Is there any particular character who *does* fulfill
the normative conventions of gender?

Teenage mother closest to norm, but has
addiction and is described as "monster"
Transvestite ex-prostitute hairdresser
Narrator identifies with paternal side of family,
rejected mother, does not have kids—doesn't
fulfill gender norm expectations



Characters (list them, describe)

Characters with names:

- Lala the hairdresser (the narrator's friend)
- Sarita a young transvestite who works as a prostitute on Solis Street
- Gauchito Gil a saint who was murdered for being an army deserter at the end of the nineteenth century
- San La Muerte (the little skeleton saint with the red and black candles)
- Nora the woman that appeared at the morgue to claim the little decapitated kid that was on the news (Ignacio Nachito)
- Ignacio Nachito the little decapitated kid that was on the news

Characters that are unnamed:

- A young pregnant woman that lives with her son (the dirty kid) on a corner alongside the boarded-up grocery store
- A policeman who tortured and hung Gauchito Gil by his feet
- The policeman's son who was sick and then was cured by Gil after the policeman prayed to him.
- Other policemen in the story
- Newscaster
- Narrator
- The Dirty Kid

Conflict

Central conflict: What is it? How does it build? How does it resolve? Are there elements that are not resolved?

There are many conflicts in this story. That there are some issues within issues.

The main conflict in the story is between the responsibility the speaker feels towards a child that is not her own and the lack of responsibility of the parent of the child

Plotting the central conflict

Climax: 1. When the narrator and the mother first meet, after ice cream?
2. When the decapitated child is found?
3. When the narrator meets the mother again and grabs her by the neck?

Development: The speaker speaking to the kid created a lasting connection

Resolution: 1. Not resolved?
2. Resolved via transformation?

Introduction: The speaker seeing the dirty kid and his mother from her house.

Setting (find some pictures, maps (via Google) or descriptions in story)

- Hulk of stone, green painted iron doors
- The ice cream shop and Ceballos Street
- The old family home in the Constitución neighborhood by the Virreyes Street in Buenos Aires
- The house that the narrator lives in belongs to her grandparents.

Art Deco Style Homes



Setting (Pictures)

