

## Narrative Overview

- **Narration = Narrare** (Latin Root) **which means to recount.**
- **Narration is born of experience and is the recounting of experience.** It comes in many different shapes, languages, contexts, and textures, but it **conveys common elements of human existence** - life, birth, death, love, hate, home, discovery, people and place.
- **Because we are sentient beings, narrative is informed, made whole by the senses** – by the experiences of the senses.
- **Narration is a fancy way of saying storytelling.** . As Toni Morrison aptly states in her acceptance speech of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature,

Members of the Swedish Academy, ladies and gentlemen, narrative has never been merely entertainment for me. It is, I believe, one of the principal ways in which we absorb knowledge. I hope you will understand then why I begin these remarks with the opening phrase of what must be the oldest sentence in the world and the earliest one we remember from our childhood, “Once upon a time.”

- **Some Common Elements of Narration in Literature and Oral Storytelling:**

A representation situated in a context – place, period, setting.

A representation that conveys what happened/what is perceived to have happened (point of view).

A representation that communicates movement, action and catharsis.

A representation that conveys the ebb and flow, the ease and disease, beauty and ugliness of the sequence of events, that come together to form a story.