

“The Path Through the Cemetery”

The Elements of Plot

Exposition:

Characters- The characters in “The Path through the Cemetery are Ivan, the Cossack lieutenant, and the customers in the saloon.

Setting- The setting in the story begins on a “cold winter’s night, when bitter wind and snow beat against the saloon.” as described by the author. The saloon is located in a small village, and is where all of the men socialize and have a drink; the mood in the saloon can be related to as loud, energetic, and content. After the conflict develops and when the main character Ivan strolls through the cemetery, it is described as frightening, and very windy: “He must have sobbed- that was the sound that was drowned in the wind. And he kneeled, cold and terrified.” The cemetery is where the character Ivan will encounter an extravagant event.

Background Information- It is provided in the exposition of the story that the main character Ivan is a timid little man compared to the other village men, and that Ivan does not like to cross the graveyard on his way home from the saloon every night. Because he doesn’t like to go through the graveyard and prefers going around he is called “Terrible-Ivan the Terribly Timid One”. Ivan is also not wealthy, and any money he gets is worth the price he pays to get it.

Rising Action:

Struggle/Conflict/Problem- One night while at the saloon Cossack lieutenant challenged Ivan to cross through the path in the graveyard on his way home rather than taking the long way around it. If Ivan took on the challenge, which he did, then he was promised five rubles.

Internal/External- Ivan is facing an external conflict.

Climax:

The climax of the story is when Ivan is half way through the cemetery, and strikes the saber into the cold ground hiding in the shadows the colossal tomb towering in the middle of the cemetery; which he was supposed to do in order to prove to the men at the saloon he actually went through the cemetery. However, seconds later he becomes unconscious after some final gurgling noises.

Falling Action:

Outcome- Ivan ends up being found dead the following morning of a mere frostbite as well as scaring himself to death through a heart attack.

Who's Impacted- Ivan is impacted the most by what occurred in the conflict, considering he's dead after attempting to pursue the challenge the lieutenant gave him.

New Problem/Actions- No new problems or actions have been made, since Ivan, the protagonist, suffered an unfortunate death.

Resolution:

How Does it End- The story ends with Ivan dead, and him never receiving his money after almost completing the challenge presented to him.

How's the Conflict Resolved- The conflicts resolved when Ivan dies without completing his challenge.

How the Main Character Changed- The main character changed when he died from a sudden heart attack, or dramatizing feeling of overwhelming fear in the middle of the path through the cemetery.

How are Others Changed- Nobody else changes except the lieutenant gets to keep his money.

