

# Terminology

*narrative* conveys a *story* by means of *discourse*

*story*: what it is about

*discourse*: how it is told

“*Story* refers to the content of the narrative, what it is about. A story consists of such elements as events, characters, and settings, and the interaction of these elements comprises what we call the plot. *Discourse* refers to the rhetoric of the narrative, how the story is told. Stories concerning the same basic events, characters, and settings can be told in ways that produce very different narratives. The four Gospels provide excellent examples of this.”

Mark Allan Powell, *What Is Narrative Criticism?*