Interpreting Fiction

Plot
How do events relate to one another?
How do single events relate to the work as a whole?
How are events arranged in time?
What conflicts occur in the story?
How do these conflicts move the plot along?
How are events juxtaposed? How does this juxtaposition affect the development?

Setting
When and where does the action take place?
What is the relationship between the setting and the mood?
How does the setting create the mood of the story?
How does the setting affect the characters?

Characters
What conflicts exist between the protagonist(s) and the antagonist(s)?
What traits, feelings, and values are exhibited by the characters?
How do the characters relate to one another?
What do the characters say?
Are the characters fully developed? Stereotyped?
How are the major characters changed by the events?