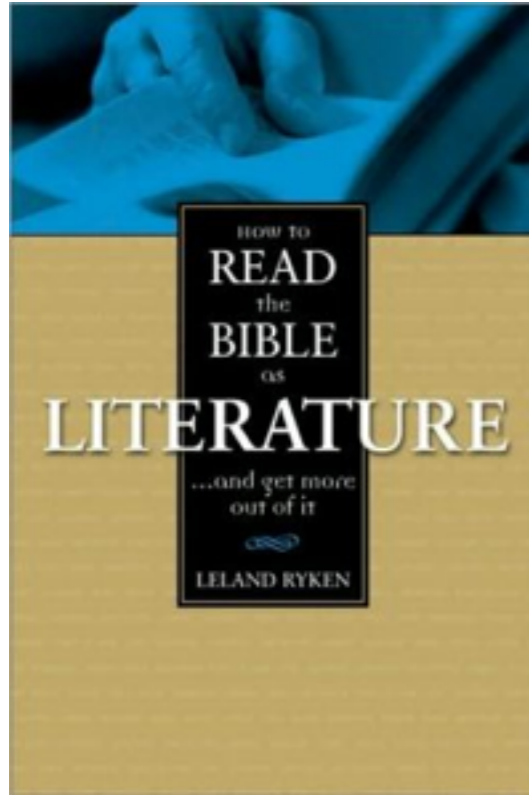


## **How characters are portrayed: 37**

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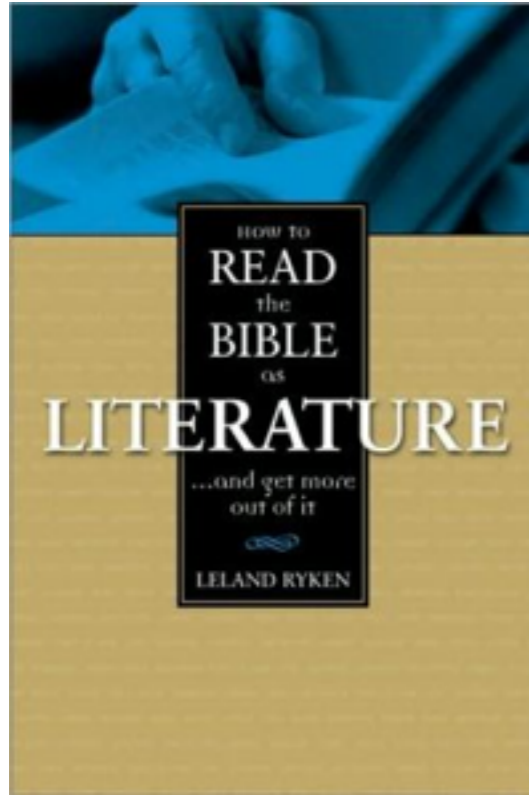
- by direct description 37
- by the responses of other characters 38
- by that character's own words and thoughts 38
- their self portrayals can be a means by which our own character is revealed 38
- their actions can demonstrate their character 38



## Types of plots: 40

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- Plot can be related through physical conflict 40
- Plot can be related to character conflict 41
- Plot can be related to moral, spiritual, conflict 41

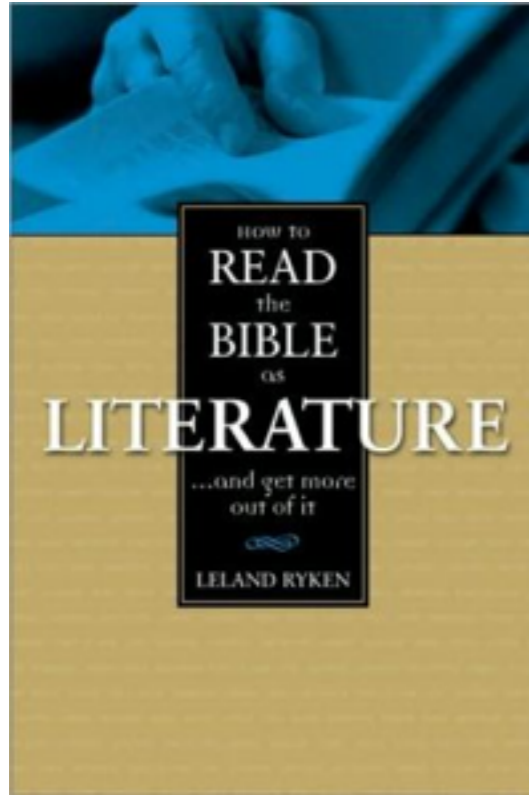


## **The test motif and stories:**

*The hero can be tested ...*

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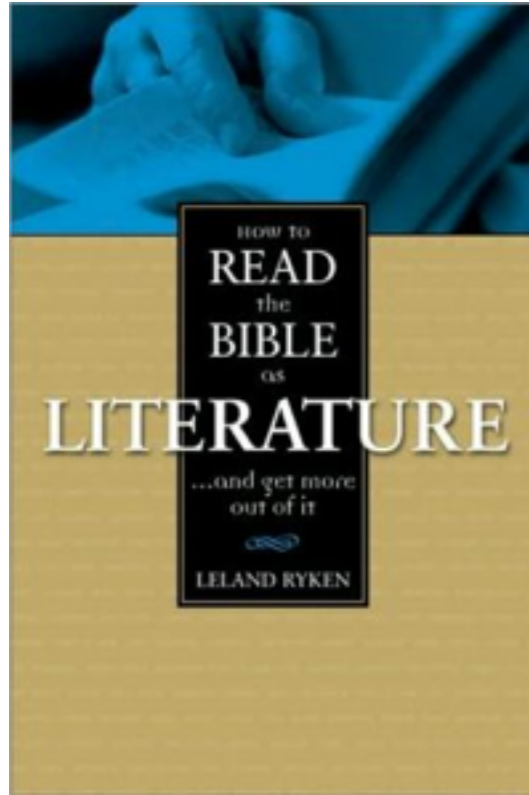
- physically, or with reference to his courage 50
- with regard to his resourcefulness or cleverness 50
- with regard to his mental, or psychological, abilities 50
- with reference to his moral or spiritual abilities 51



## Stories and choice/change:

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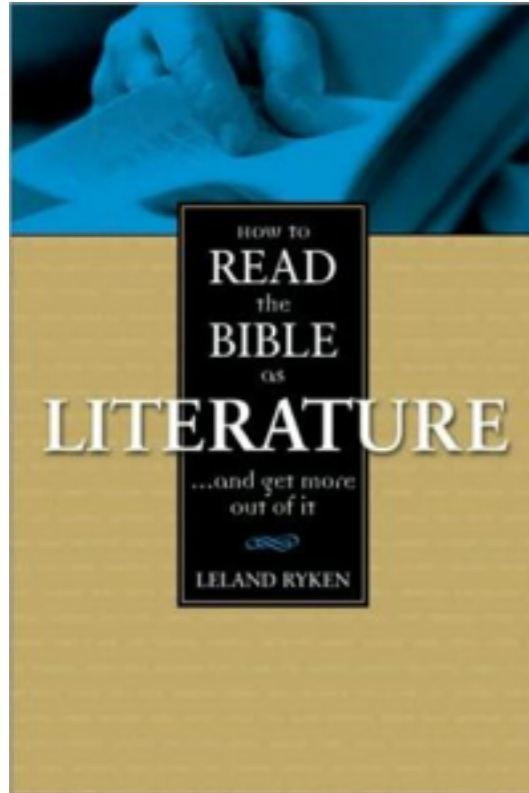
- Stories and choice:
  - Note choices that story characters make 51
  - The story is usually about the right choice 51
- Stories and change: 53
  - Stories address change in fortune or situation
  - Stories address change in character
  - Stories address a combination of these two changes



## What do stories mean: 59

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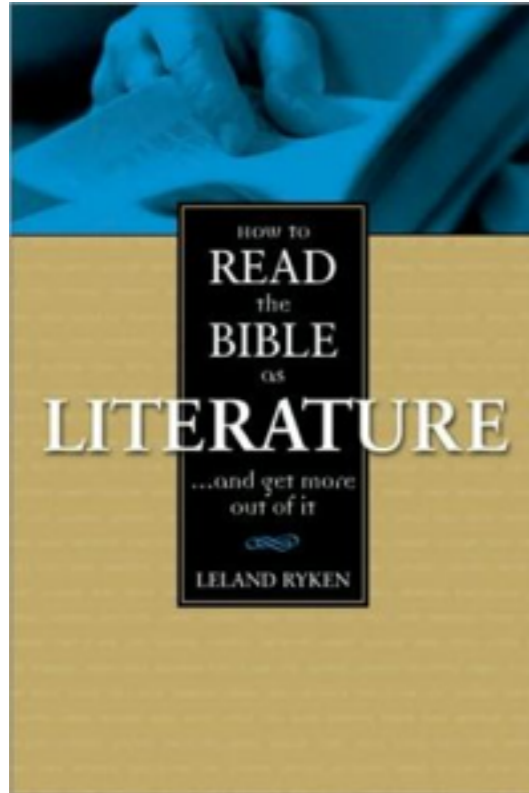
- Because the writer often states ideas indirectly, stories must be interpreted.
- Writers do two things: they present an experience/story, and they offer an interpretation of it.
- Our job is to make sure that we identify what the story is as well as what the writer wants us to understand



## Figuring out the story: 59

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- Repetition guides you to the key elements of the story
- Highlighting, or foregrounding, directs a reader's attention
  - This can be done via character transformation.
  - Also done through the space devote to the story
  - Key events also serve as a form of highlighting

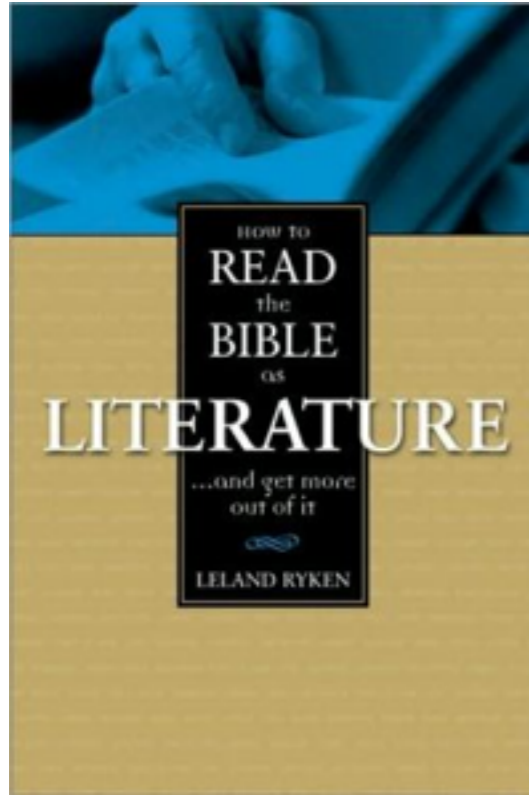


## Determining the point of view: 61

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- The storyteller's comments often reveal his point of view
  - This occurs rather rarely in Scripture
  - Usually normative characters show the point of view
  - The *most normative character* is always God.
  - His point of view is always central.
- Frequently, the interpretive strategy in understanding the biblical narrative is built in the story itself, and the reader must learn to interpret those signals accurately.

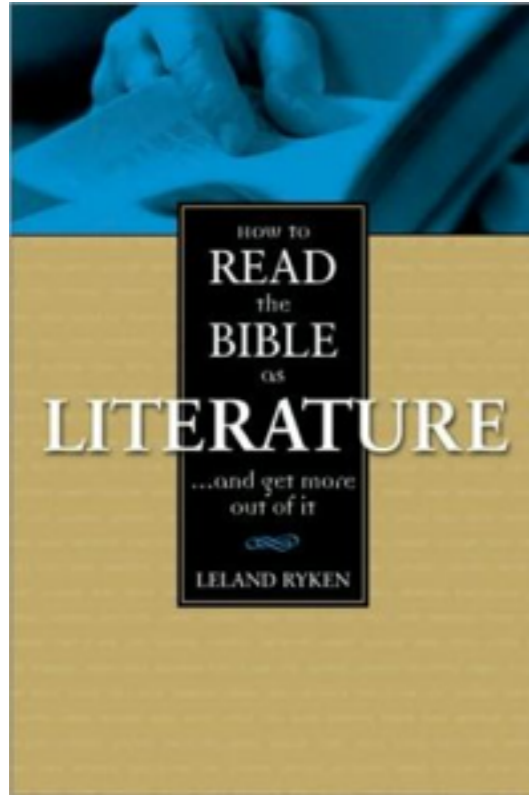




## Determining the point of view: 61

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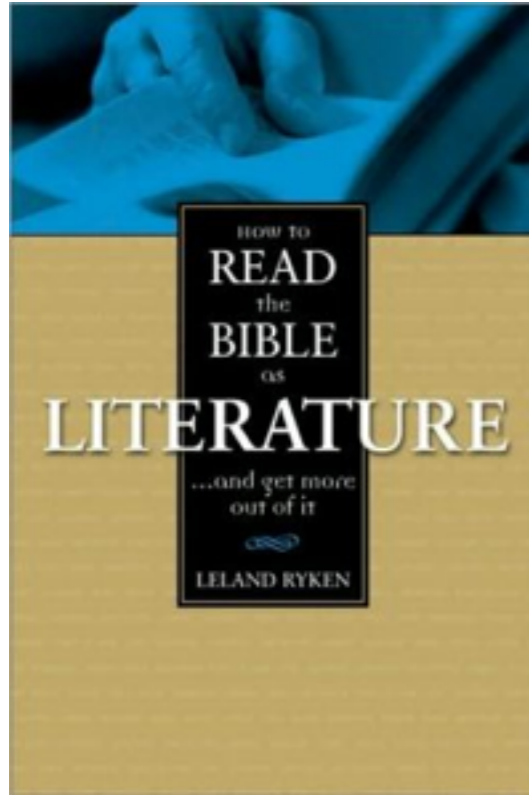
- What the author includes, and how he arranges it, also reflects point of view.
- What you see, and what you don't see, part of the author's selectivity, also determines point of view.
- This selectivity can be seen in how the narrative reflects the character, event, etc.



## Checklist of narrative elements:

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- Physical, temporal, and cultural settings in the story.
- Characters, with emphasis on the protagonist.
- Plot conflicts and their resolution.
- Narrative suspense (how curiosity develops)
- Protagonist's experiment and implied comment about life.
- Narrative unity, coherence, and emphasis.



## Checklist of narrative elements:

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- Elements of testing and choice in the story.
- Character progress and transformation.
- Foils, dramatic irony, and poetic justice.
- Implied assertions about reality, morality, and values.
- Repetition/highlighting as clues to what the story is about.
- Point of view—how the writer reflects on characters/events.

