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Interpretive and escapist are two types of literature; escapist is written for entertainment while interpretive is written to make one think. Plot is that most simple element in stories which is simply what occurs in a story. Character analysis helps shed light on the character and its conflicts. Sherman Alexie conveys his story through literary terms such as plot and conflict in “What You Pawn I Will Redeem.”

The Bartender in the story is a flat character. He does not have any internal conflict within the story but does have external conflict. The Bartender has a man vs. man conflict with Jackson, but it is resolved very quickly with him giving Jackson a little beating. “’It’s closing time. I don’t care where you go, but you’re not staying here.’ ‘You are an ungrateful bastard. I’ve been good to you.’ ‘You don’t leave right now, I’m going to kick your ass.’ ‘Come on, I know how to fight’” (Alexie 21). He is a stereotypical bartender with no real complexity; they just serve customers and deal with drunks. For example “’How much for whiskey shots?’ I asked the bartender, a fat white guy. ‘You want the bad stuff or the badder stuff?’ ‘As bad as you got.’ ‘One dollar a shot’” (Alexie 18). He is also static, staying the same throughout the story with no real change to say otherwise. He also doesn’t display other conflicts. The bartender is flat since all characteristic he shows point to his flatness.

Clearly for Sherman Alexie’s “What You Pawn I Will Redeem,” interpretive and escapist aspects both play a role in creating this story. Alexie wrote a story that makes one think ,but also keeps the reader hooked. The steps of examining things like characters and plot help determine how a story in this case What You Pawn I Will Redeem is either interpretive, escapist or both.