

Six Common Endings in Fiction

Explicit ending – This is the ending that wraps everything up and answers all the questions. This ending will frequently tell what happens to each of the major characters, and is usually very satisfying in its completeness.

Implicit ending – If you like an ending that is strongly based on interpretation, then you like implicit endings. These endings are more common in short fiction.

Twist ending – As the name implies, this ending is unexpected or twisted. As a writer, everything you've led your reader to believe gets thrown out at the end, and is replaced by a new revelation.

Tie-back ending – This ending ties the end of the story back to clues planted in the beginning.

Unresolved ending – In an unresolved ending – commonly known as a cliffhanger, the main conflicts are left unanswered and the reader is left to ponder the outcome. Like modern soap operas, Dickens favoured this ending as most of his fiction was serialised.

Long view ending – These endings tell what happens to the characters a significant timeframe into the future.