

Elements of Plot

Exposition – the information needed to understand a story

- Introduces characters and setting
- Background information
- Sets the scene

Rising Action – major conflict in the story

- Characters encounter challenges and complications
- Suspense and excitement build

Climax – the turning point in the story

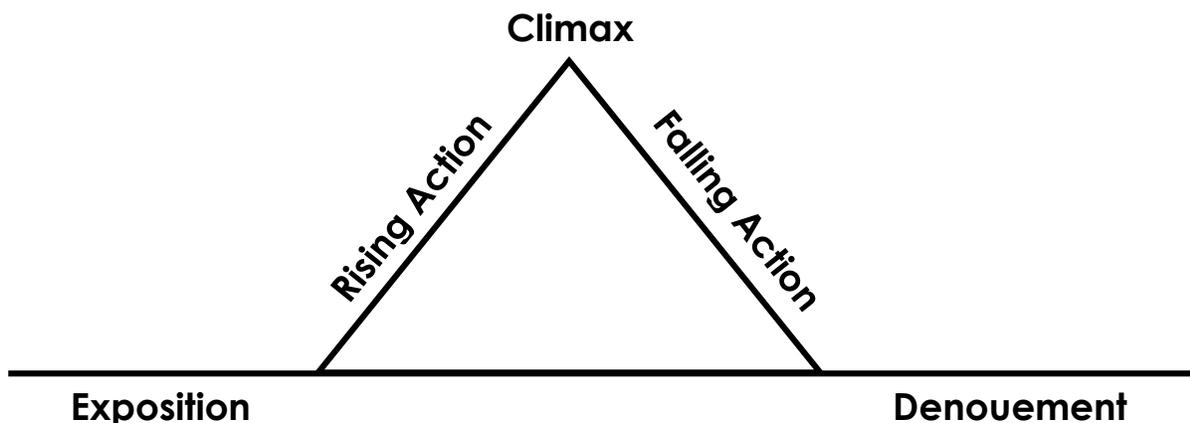
- Moment of greatest tension in a story
- Occurs when the conflict is resolved
- Often the most exciting event in a story

Falling Action – set of events that bring the story to a close

- Loose ends are tied
- Events that happen as a result of the climax

Denouement – the resolution of the story

- The story comes to a close
- Final outcome and explanation of the story
- Closing thought or statements
- Sometimes a lesson is learned



Point of View

Who tells the story and how it is told are critical issues for an author to decide. The tone and feel of the story, and even its meaning, can change radically depending on who is telling the story. Consider the following situation:

A car accident occurs between two cars. A couple witnessed the accident while walking down the street. Another man happened to video the accident on his phone. There was also a helicopter flying overhead at the time.

In this situation, there are 8 different points of view. There are 8 different perspectives and descriptions of the accident. This angle of vision is important to consider when reading a story.

Types of Point of View

Objective

The narrator is not a character in the story and does not give an opinion on the story. The narrator can be trusted.

First Person

The narration is from the perspective of a character who participates in the action of the story. The narrator is not always reliable and cannot always be trusted. The perspective is narrow.

Third Person

The narrator does not participate in the action of the story as one of the characters, but lets us know how the characters feel. The perspective is broad.

Omniscient and Limited Omniscient

Omniscient – the narrator knows everything about all the characters, including their thoughts.
Limited – the narrator's knowledge is limited to one character.