

Elements of a Narrative



What is a Narrative:

- A narrative is a story containing specific elements that work together to create interest for not only the author but also the reader.
- This type of writing makes the reader feel as if he or she were part of the story, as if it was being told directly to him or her.

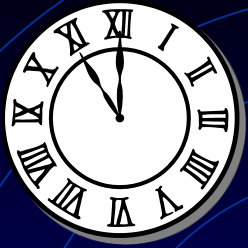
Story Elements

- Setting
- Characters
- Plot
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Point of View
- Theme



Setting

- Setting is the “where and when” of a story. It is the time and place during which the story takes place.



Setting

Time and place are where the action occurs

Details that describe:

- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Scenery
- ✓ Customs
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Dialects
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Time of day
- ✓ Time of year



The Functions of a Setting

- To create a mood or atmosphere
- To show a reader a different way of life
- To make action seem more real
- To be the source of conflict or struggle
- To symbolize an idea



Mood

- **Mood** is the feeling that the author tries to convey throughout the story. The atmosphere or emotional condition created by the piece, within the setting. Does the author want the reader to be frightened or sad, or does the story make the reader laugh and think happy thoughts?
- To figure out mood, examine how you feel while reading the story. Often mood is conveyed by the story's setting.

Characters

- The person, animals, and things participating in a story

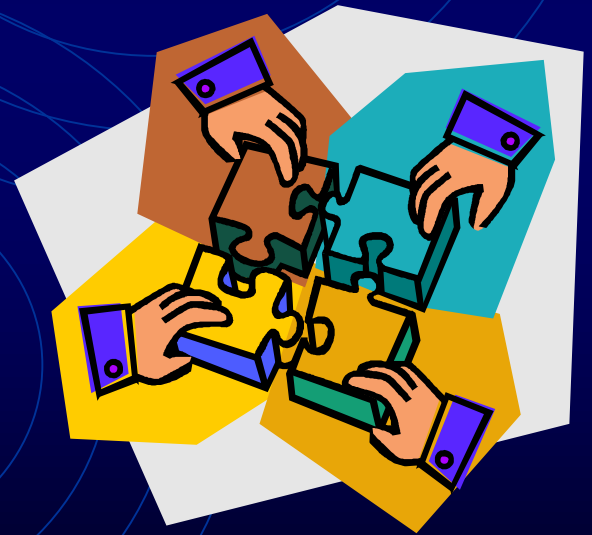


Characters

- Protagonist and antagonist are used to describe characters.
- The protagonist is the main character of the story, the one with whom the reader identifies. This person is not necessary “good”.
- The antagonist is the force in opposition of the protagonist; this person may not be “bad” or “evil”, but he/she opposes the protagonist in a significant way

Plot (definition)

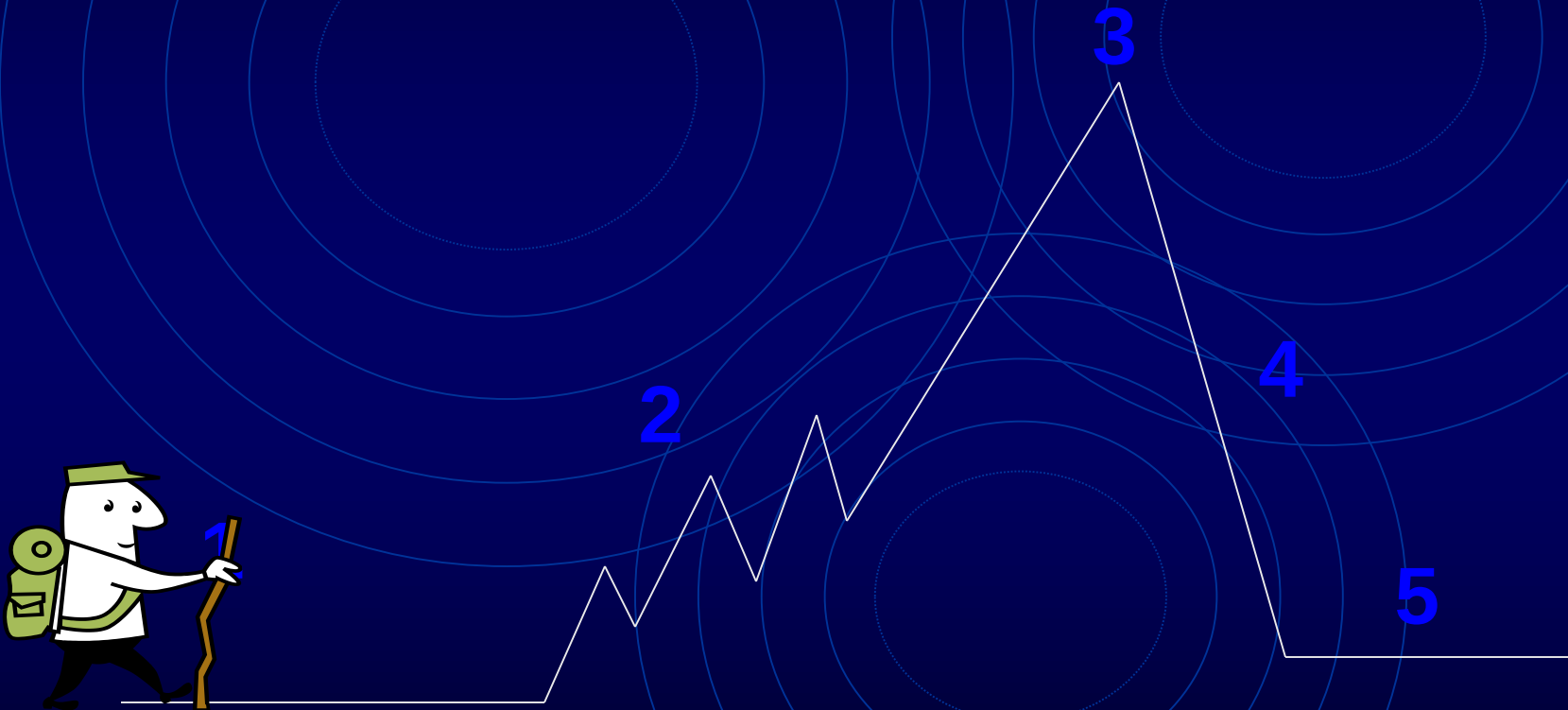
- Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story.
- Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.



Parts of a Plot

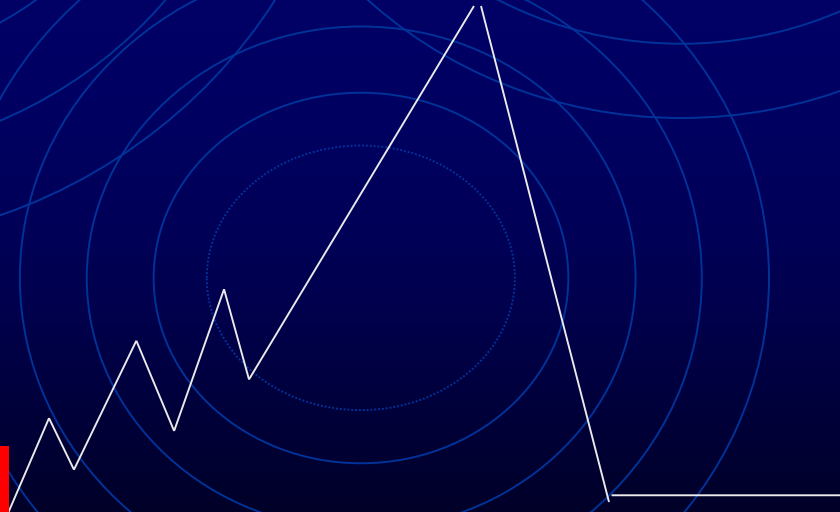
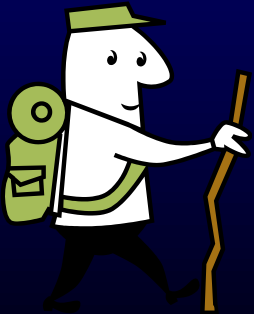
- Exposition - introduction; characters, setting and conflict (problem) are introduced
- Rising Action - events that occur as result of central conflict
- Climax - highest point of interest or suspense of a story
- Falling Action - tension eases; events show the results of how the main character begins to resolve the conflict
- Resolution - loose ends are tied up; the conflict is solved

Plot Diagram



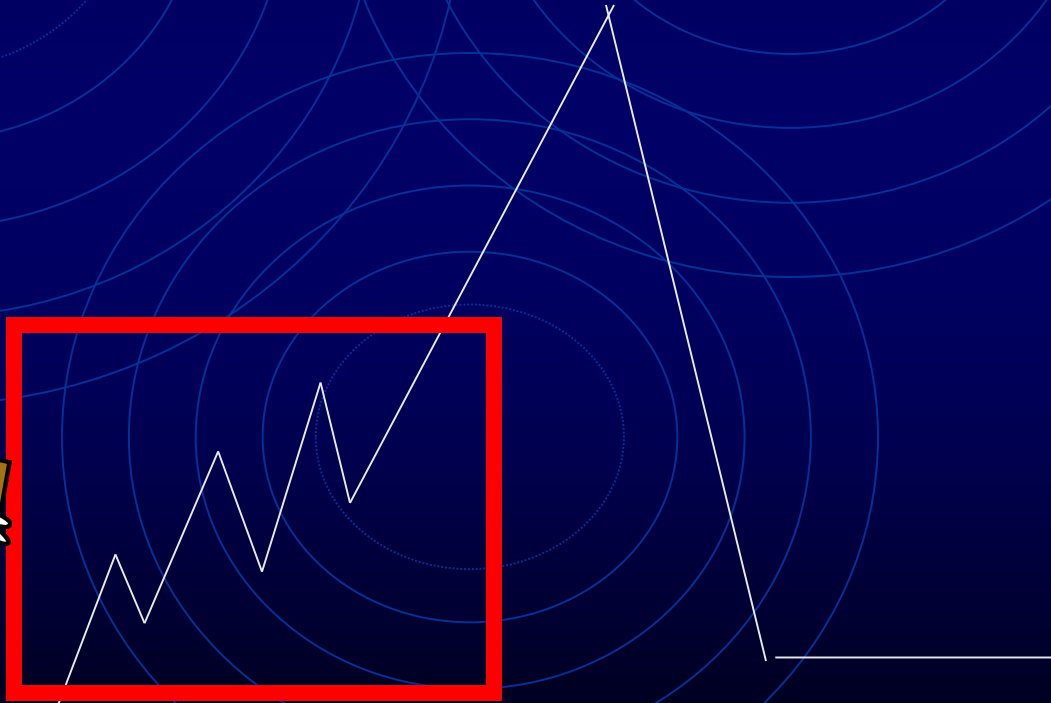
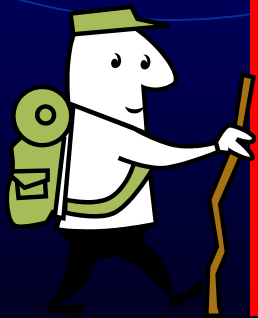
1. Exposition

- This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).



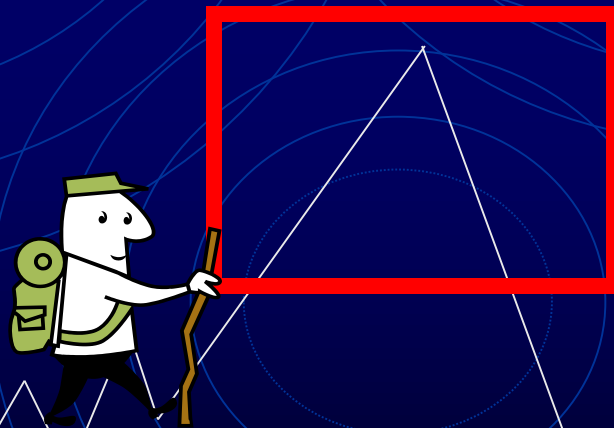
2. Rising Action

- This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs and leads to the climax. Complications arise



3. Climax

- This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way. This is the most intense moment.



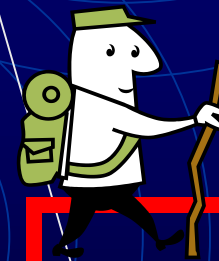
4. Falling Action

- Action that follows the climax and ultimately leads to the resolution



5. Resolution

- The conclusion; all loose ends are tied up.
- Either the character defeats the problem, learns to live with the problem, or the problem defeats the character.



Putting It All Together

1. Exposition

2. Rising Action

3. Climax

4. Falling Action

5. Resolution

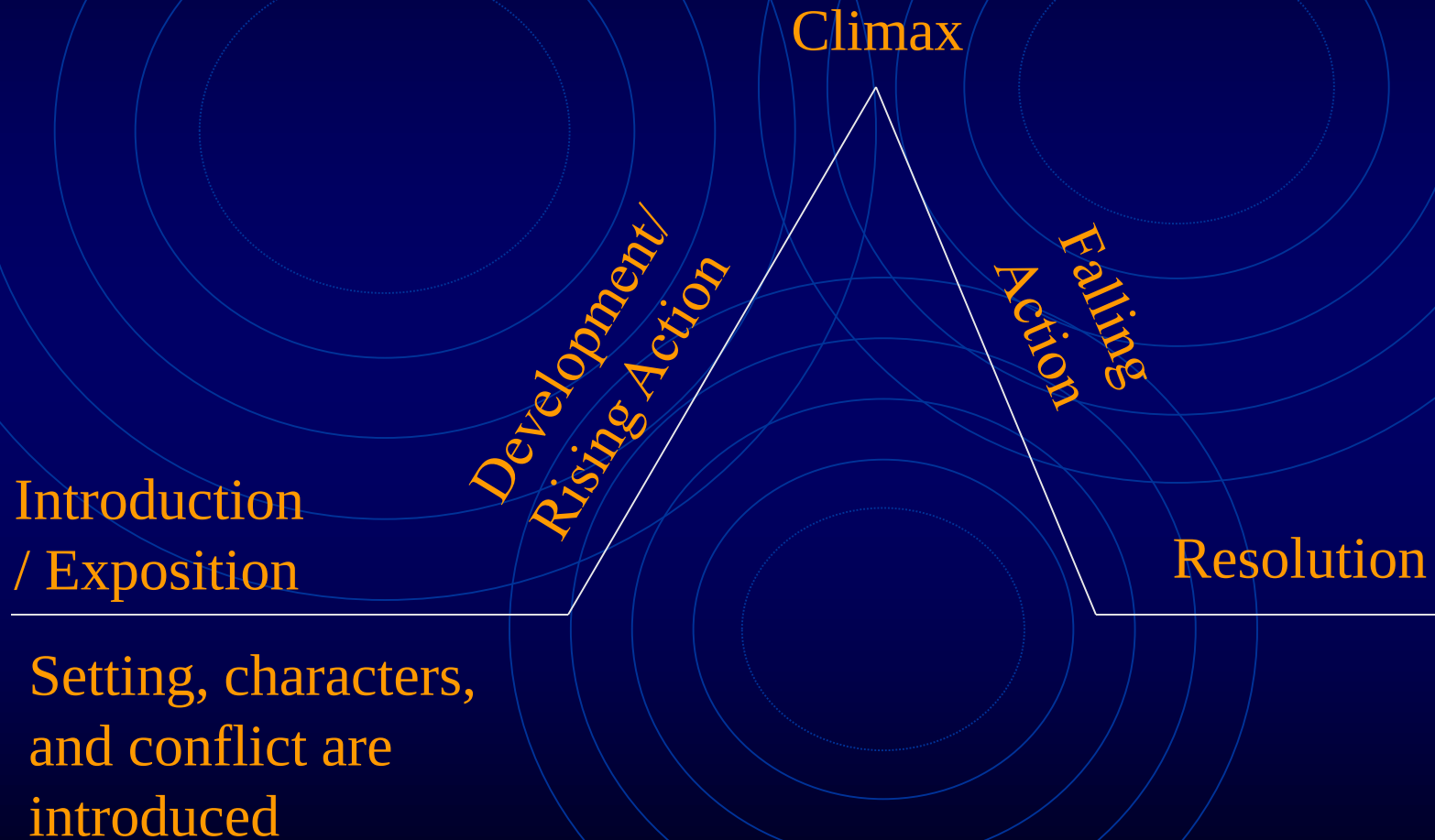
Beginning of
Story

Middle of Story

End of Story



Diagram of Plot



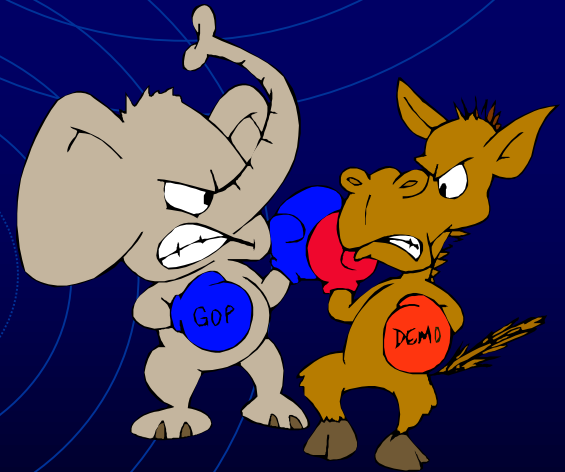
Special Techniques used in a Story

- **Suspense**- excitement, tension, curiosity
- **Foreshadowing**- hint or clue about what will happen in story
- **Flashback**- interrupts the normal sequence of events to tell about something that happened in the past
- **Symbolism** – use of specific objects or images to represent ideas
- **Personification** – when you make a thing, idea or animal do something only humans do
- **Surprise Ending** - conclusion that reader does not expect



Conflict

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.



Conflict



- Conflict is a problem that must be solved; an issue between the protagonist and antagonist forces. It forms the basis of the plot.
- Conflicts can be external or internal
 - ✓ External conflict- outside force may be person, group, animal, nature, or a nonhuman obstacle
 - ✓ Internal conflict- takes place in a character's mind

Types of External Conflict

Character vs Character



Character vs Nature



Character vs Society



Character vs Fate

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Type of Internal Conflict

Character vs. Self



Point of View

- First Person Point of View- a character from the story is telling the story; uses the pronouns “I” and “me”
- Third Person Point of View- an outside narrator is telling the story; uses the pronouns “he”, “she”, “they”

Types of Third-Person Point of View

- **Third-Person Limited**
 - The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings on only **ONE** character in a story.
- **Third-Person Omniscient**
 - The narrator knows the thoughts and feeling of **ALL** the characters in a story.

Theme

- The theme is the central, general message, the main idea, the controlling topic about life or people the author wants to get across through a literary work
- To discover the theme of a story, think big. What big message is the author trying to say about the world in which we live?
- What is this story telling me about how life works, or how people behave?

The Theme is also

- the practical lesson (moral) that we learn from a story after we read it. The lesson that teaches us what to do or how to behave after you have learned something from a story or something that has happened to you.

Example: The lesson or teaching of the story is be careful when you're offered something for nothing.

Any questions?

