“PLOT DIAGRAM”

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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Elements of a Short Story

Reading Standards 3.1

Articulate the expressed purpose and characteristics of different forms of prose (e.g., short story, novel, essay).
A short **story** or **play** usually follows a **plot diagram**. The plot diagram contains **six** elements:

1. EXPOSITION
2. CONFLICT
3. RISING ACTION
4. CLIMAX
5. FALLING ACTION
6. RESOLUTION
Outline of a **plot diagram** mountain.

- **Exposition**
- **Conflict**
- **Rising Action**
- **Climax**
- **Falling Action**
- **Resolution**
Exposition

In a **play** or **novel**, exposition gives the **background** or situation surrounding the story.

**Exposition includes:**

1. **Setting** (time and **place** in which the action of the literary work **occurs**)
2. **Characters** (protagonist & antagonist)
   - Protagonist is the **main** character or **hero**
   - Antagonist is the person or thing working **against** the protagonist or hero.
Conflict

Conflict is the problem or struggle in a story that triggers the action. There are five basic types of conflict:

- Person vs. Person
- Person vs. Nature
- Person vs. Self
- Person vs. Society
- Person vs. Fate (God)
Rising Action

**Rising action** is the **series** of **struggles** (or events) that builds a story or play **toward** climax.

Rising action is also known as **complications**.
Climax

Climax is usually the most intense point in a story or emotional high point.

The series of struggles or conflicts (rising action) build a story or play toward the climax.
Falling Action

Falling action is the part of a story or play that works out the decision arrived at during the climax.

Falling action occurs after the climax.
Resolution

Resolution is also known as the denouement. It is the portion of the play or story in which the problem is solved.

The resolution comes after the climax and falling action and is intended to bring the story to a satisfactory end.
Quick Review (True/False)

1. The first element of a plot diagram is Rising Action.
2. The most moderate or relaxed point in a story is the climax.
3. Falling action comes right after exposition.
4. Another name for resolution is denouement.
5. There are six elements of a short story.
6. A short story is an expository text.