

Plot

The plot is the action or sequence of events in a story. Plot is usually a series of related incidents. These incidents build and grow to develop the story. There are five basic elements in a plot line (conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement):

- ❑ **Conflict:**
In narration, the conflict is the struggle between opposing forces that moves the plot forward. Conflict can be internal, occurring within a character, or external, between characters or between a character and an abstraction such as nature or fate. Think for a minute - when you make a decision within your own heart, you have experienced an internal conflict; or when you have a different point of view than someone in your family or a friend you have experienced an external conflict; or when you have been in the middle of a thunderstorm, snowstorm, hurricane, you have experienced an external conflict.
- ❑ **Rising Action:**
All the events in a story that move the plot forward are the grouped together and called the rising action. Rising action involves conflicts and complications, and builds toward the climax of the story.
- ❑ **Climax:**
The climax of a novel is the high point or the turning point, in the story - usually the most intense point near the end of the story.
- ❑ **Falling Action:**
In the plot of the story, the falling action is the action that occurs after the climax. During the falling action, conflicts are resolved; mysteries solved.
- ❑ **Denouement or Resolution:**
The denouement is the portion of a play or story where the problem is solved. The denouement of a story comes after the climax and falling action and is intended to bring the story to a satisfactory end.

Character: A person who takes part in the action of a story, novel, or a play. Sometimes characters can be animals or imaginary creatures.

Characterization/character development: The method a writer uses to develop characters. There are four basic methods: a) a writer may describe a character's appearance; b) a character's nature may be revealed through his/her own speech, thoughts, feelings, or actions; c) the speech, thoughts, feelings, or actions of other characters can be used to develop a character; d) the narrator can make direct comments about a character

Protagonist: The main character of a story.

Image/imagery: Words and phrases that create vivid sensory experiences for the reader. Most images are visual, but imagery may also appeal to the senses of smell, hearing, taste, or touch as well as sight.

Mood: The feeling or atmosphere (setting) the writer creates for the reader. The use of connotation, details, dialogue, imagery, figurative language, foreshadowing, setting, and rhythm can help establish mood.

Setting: The time and place of the action in a story, play, poem.

Symbol: A person place or thing that represents something beyond itself. Symbols can succinctly communicate complicated, emotionally rich ideas. (ex: heart = love, flag = courage)

Tone: An expression of a writer's attitude toward a subject. Unlike mood, which is intended to shape the reader's emotional response, tone reflects the feelings of the writer. Tone can be serious, humorous, sarcastic, playful, ironic, bitter, objective, ...