

Characters Ride the Story Plot

Literature is about a character's journey.

EXPOSITION

A thorough description of the...

MAIN CHARACTER'S

- Background
- Family
- Upbringing
- Lifestyle
- Likes/dislikes, etc.

HIS MOTIVATION

- Values, goals
- Dreams, hopes
- Wishes, wants
- Desires, plans

THE SETTING

- Less definitive "WHEN" DETAILS (e.g., time of life, life situation, era, time period, cultural norms, context, past/historical, present, timeless, future, etc.)
- Less definitive "WHERE" DETAILS (e.g., emotional mood, surrounding activity, cultural norms/context, etc.)

The setting details and character backstory provided will cause or impact the conflict.

THE BEGINNING

CONFLICT

- A problem is typically obvious, specific, and definable.
- A conflict is a broader situation or circumstance tied to the character's backstory and the setting.

Conflicts typically include:

- A concern or fear of someone or something.
- A difficult choice or dilemma.
- A desire, value, wish or want for something but can't have it or do it.
- A physical challenge or difficult task.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MIDDLE

EPISODES

Small scenes, actions, moments, events, conversations, or happenings that...

- Make the main character's problem worse, harder to attain, or represent another failed attempt.
- Layer actions, advance the plot, and add intensity and tension.
- Increase the character's feelings (e.g., more anxious, more lonely, more angry, more desperate, etc.).
- Reveal more about the character's background, motives, traits, etc.

THE REST OF THE MIDDLE IS RISING ACTION MADE UP OF INDIVIDUAL EPISODES. THE MIDDLE STARTS WHEN THE CONFLICT IS REVEALED & ENDS RIGHT BEFORE THE CLIMAX.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

CLIMAX

The moment the character is forced to make a choice to...

- Apply someone's idea.
- Accept someone's help.
- Take on the challenge.
- Overcome the obstacle.
- Make the tough choice.

Also called the **TURNING POINT**

- **TURNING** meaning the choice will impact his personality or life for the rest of the story.
- **POINT** meaning it's a single moment. (It can be summarized in one sentence. *The climax is when he...*)

FALLING ACTION: Immediately following the climactic moment...

- Character actions, thoughts, and words that indicate a change in values, goals, priorities, growth, maturity, attitude, or beliefs.

RESOLUTION: Where things stand with the character...

- Literally— Where is he?
- Emotionally— How is he?
- Situationally— How is he with the outcome based on his original motivation?

Some parts of the resolution are stated in the text, but a lot of it is implied.

Literature is about a character's journey.

- The story ends, but things aren't perfect.
- The problem may be better or improved, but it's not necessarily gone.
- The character has grown or evolved, but he isn't perfect.
- The conflict may be diminished, but it's not gone.