

Elements of a Story

Literary Elements

What you need to know!

“Riki-Tivi-Tavi”



Literary Elements

- Setting
- Characters
- Plot
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Point of View
 - Also a literary term
- Theme

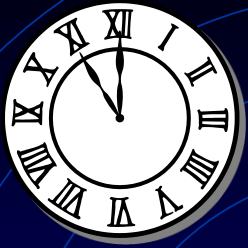


Setting



- 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

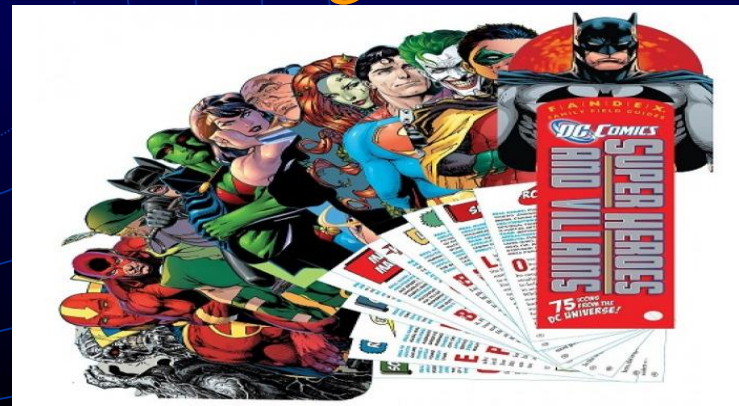


- The person, animals, and things participating in a story



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)

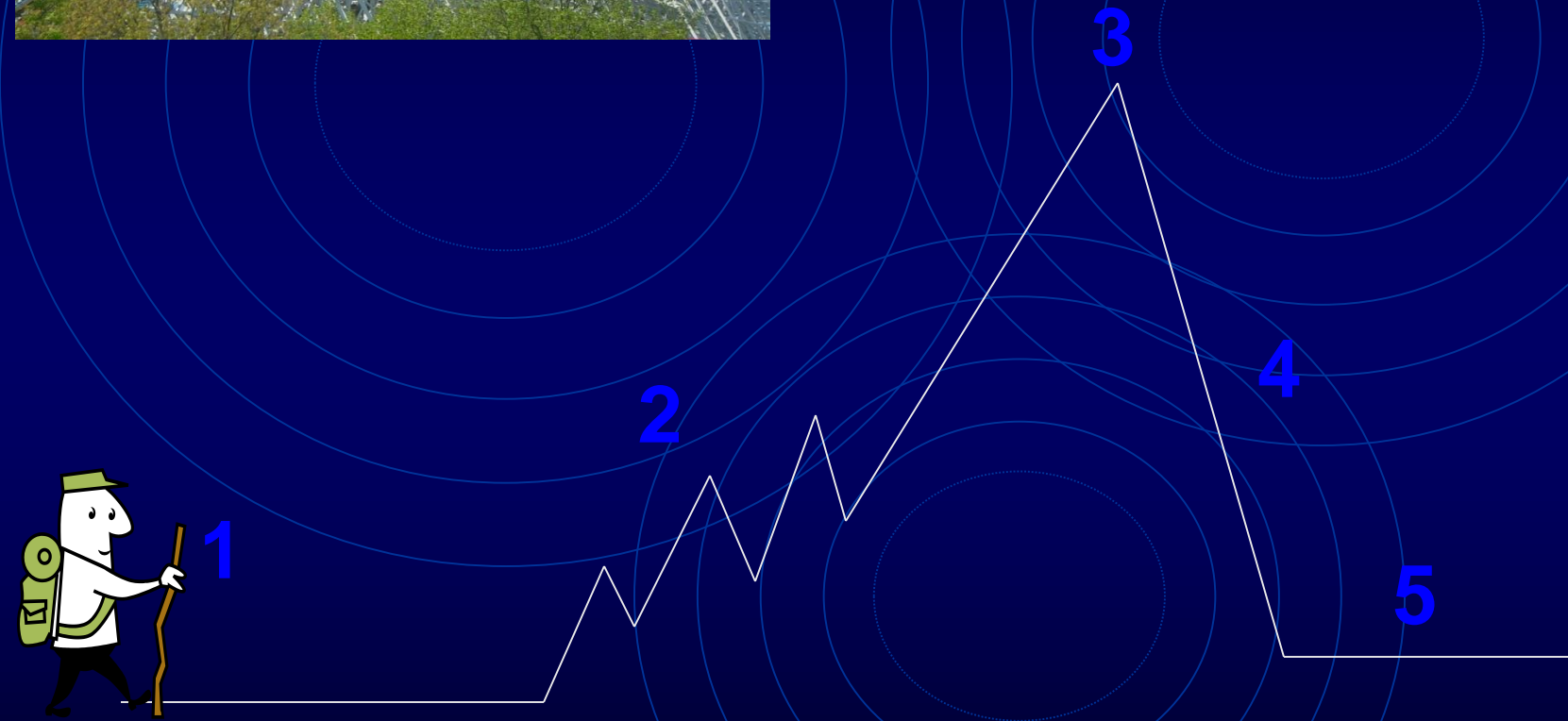
- Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story.
- Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.



Parts of a Plot

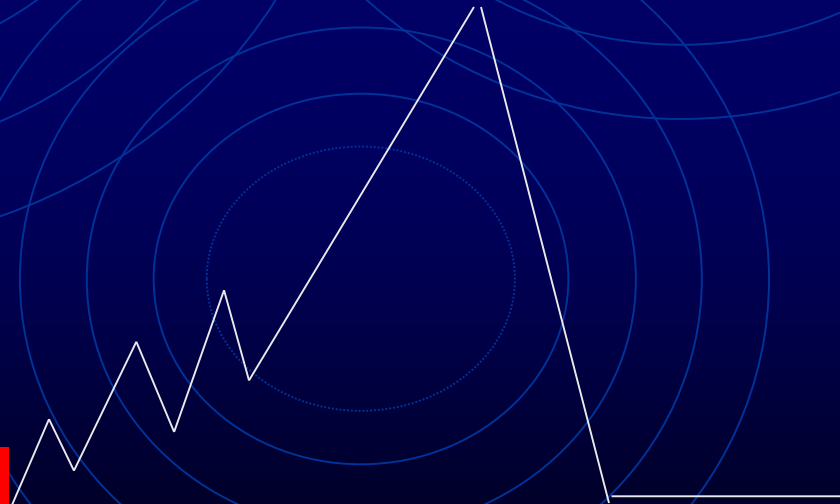
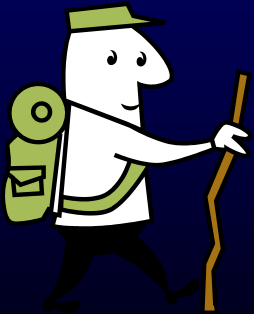
- Exposition - introduction; characters, setting and conflict (problem) are introduced
- Rising Action- events that occur as result of central conflict
- Climax- highest point of interest or suspense of a story
- Falling Action - tension eases; events show the results of how the main character begins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

Plot Diagram



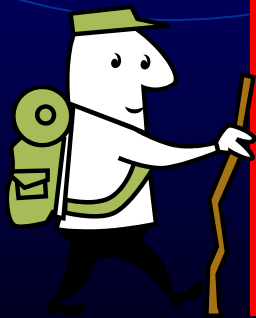
1. Exposition

- 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)**.



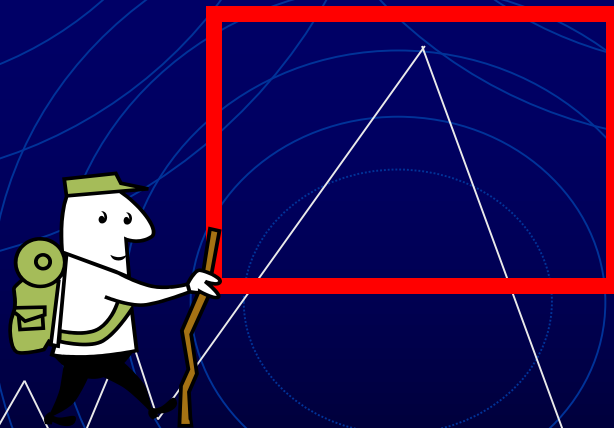
2. Rising Action

- 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**



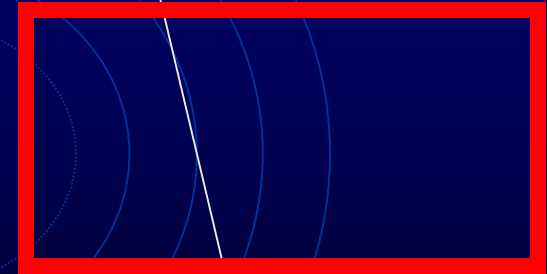
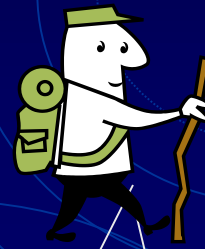
3. Climax

- 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**.



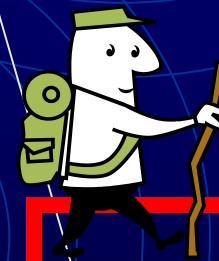
4. Falling Action

- 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

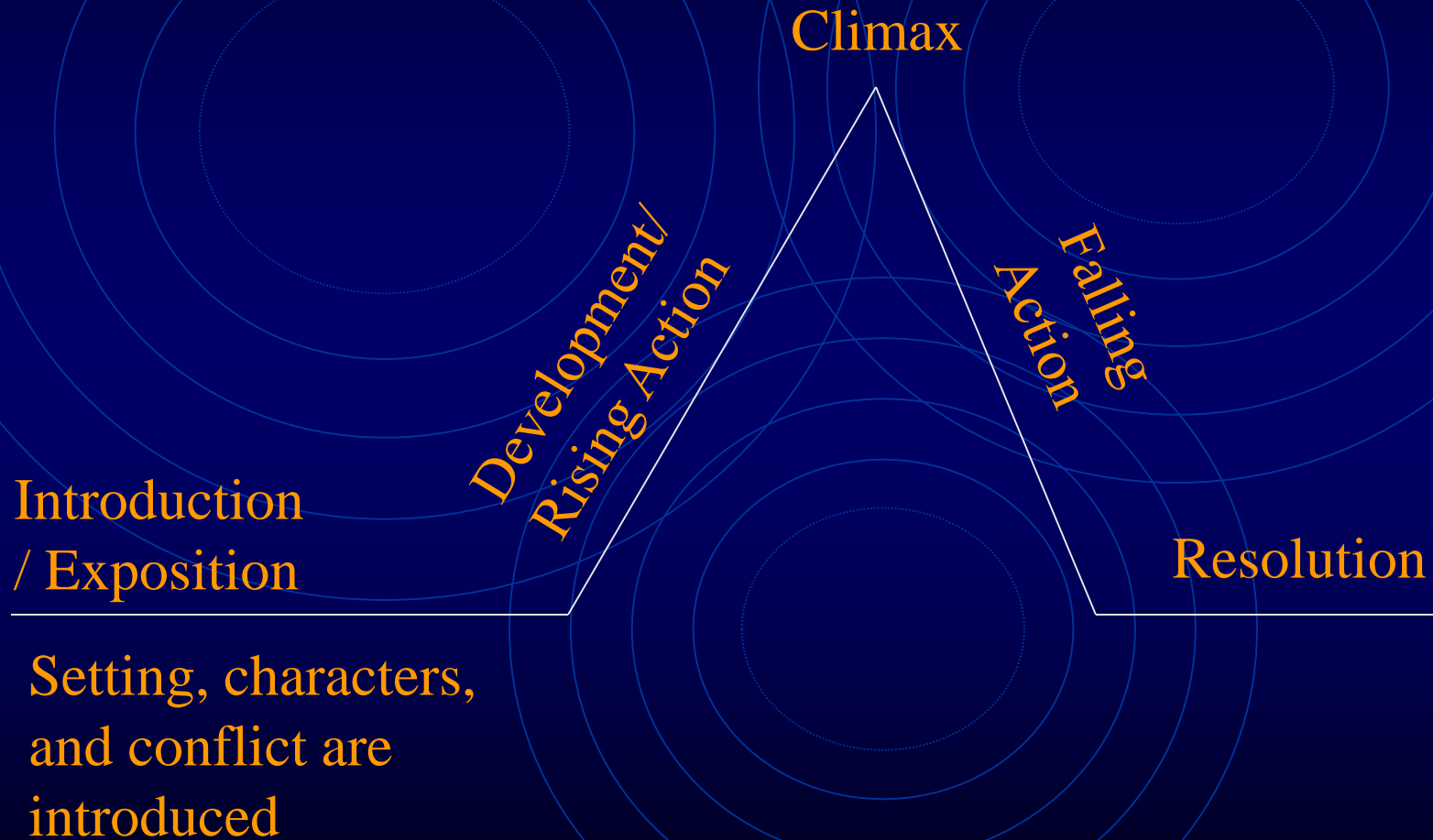
Beginning of Story

Middle of Story

End of Story

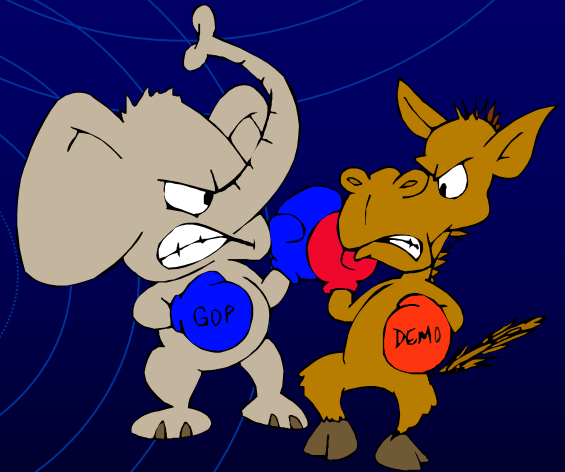


Diagram of Plot



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



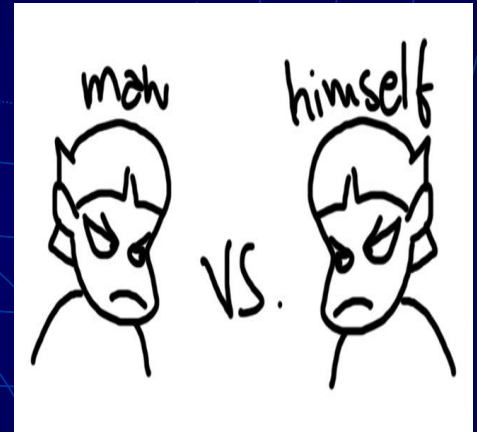
Character vs Society



Character vs Fate



Internal Conflict



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 always stated in a sentence. It is not just one word.
- 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.

Rikki-tikki-tavi

by Rudyard Kipling



If you were facing a bully, would you fight, run away, or try to negotiate?

Rikki-tikki-tavi

Build Background

This story takes place in India many years ago, when the British ruled that huge country. ▼

The family in this story lives in a cantonment, where the father is in the British army.



Rikki-tikki-tavi

This story is about the conflict between Rikki and the deadly snakes **Nag** and **Nagaina**, as Rikki strives to protect his new family.



Rikki-tikki-tavi

Introducing the Story

How will the conflict between them end? Who will survive?



See who's left standing!

Vocabulary

immensely - enormously

cowered - crouched and trembled in fear

draggled - make (something) dirty or wet, typically by trailing it through mud or water:

veranda - a roofed platform along the outside of a house, level with the ground floor.

gait - a person's manner of walking

providence - God or nature as providing protective or spiritual care

Vocabulary Continued...

sluice - a sliding gate or other device for controlling the flow of water

masonry - stonework

bungalow - a low house, with a broad front porch

purchase - a hold or position on something for applying power advantageously

valiant - possessing or showing courage or determination

consolation - comfort

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=video+mongoose+vs+cobra&FORM=VIRE1#view=detail&mid=B477C5B0C82B5E2996C9B477C5B0C82B5E2996C9>

Cobra Birth:

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=king%20cobras%20laying%20eggs%20underground&qs=n&form=QBVR&pq=king%20cobras%20laying%20eggs%20underground&sc=0-24&sp=-1&sk=#view=detail&mid=308606C3AC9B4ADE063D308606C3AC9B4ADE063D>