ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Plot structure

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you follow a story from its beginning through its biggest turning point to its ending, like tracking a movie or a novel you are reading. A movie sets up its characters, builds to the moment everything changes, and then shows how it all works out. A short story does the same thing in a few pages, and a joke does it in a few lines. Knowing the shape of a story helps you follow it while you read, and helps you build one when you write.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q **Name the stage: A story opens by introducing Sara, her village, and her wish to learn magic.**

SOLUTION

Ask: what is happening? Characters and setting are being introduced.

That is the first stage of a story.

So the stage is: exposition.

EXAMPLE 2

Q **Name the stage: After a long struggle, Sara defeats the dragon and returns home. The story ends peacefully.**

SOLUTION

Ask: what is happening? The conflict is settled and loose ends are tied up.

That is the final stage of a story.

So the stage is: resolution.

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Practice questions

1 **In the story, problems grow as Sara faces harder challenges. Name the stage?**

A Rising action

B Climax

C Falling action

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2 **In the story, the most exciting moment is when Sara faces the dragon. Name the stage?**

A Rising action

B Climax

C Falling action

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3 **In the story, events calm down after the dragon is defeated. Name the stage?**

A Rising action

B Climax

C Falling action

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4 **In the story, the hero and the setting are introduced at the start. Name the stage?**

A Exposition

B Resolution

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5 **In the story, the conflict is finally solved at the end. Name the stage?**

A Exposition

B Resolution

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6 **Which stage comes right after the climax?**

A Falling action

B Resolution

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7 **What do you call the main problem in a story?**

A Conflict

B Climax

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8 What do you call where and when a story happens?

- **A** Setting
- **B** Climax

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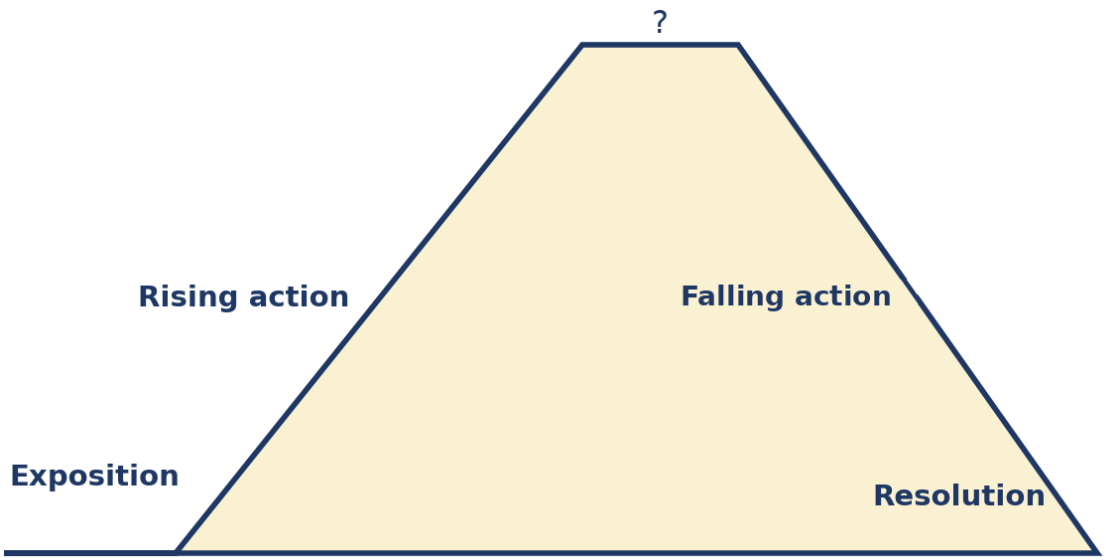
9 Look at the story mountain. Which stage is at the very top of the mountain?



- **A** Climax
- **B** Exposition

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What do you call the series of events in a story?

A Plot

B Theme

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ANSWER KEY

1. Rising action

2. Climax

3. Falling action

4. Exposition

5. Resolution

6. Falling action

7. Conflict

8. Setting

9. Climax

10. Plot

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