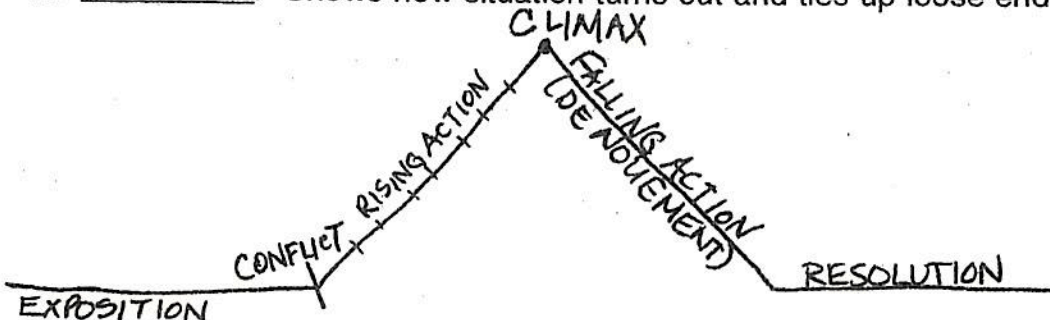


# Elements of Plot Structure

**PLOT**=a pattern of related events selected to present and resolve some conflict. Each event is important; each incident is a needed link leading to the climax & conclusion of the work. (the events that happen in a story)

- I. **Exposition:** Background information which sets the scene for the conflict, such as:
  - A. **Setting:** Establishes time (WHEN) & place (WHERE) of a story's action
    - May not be specific; it may be UNIVERSAL, which means it could be ANY time or place
  - B. **Mood:** An atmosphere/feeling is created - how does it feel?
  - C. **Characterization:** How we learn about the characters' personalities by:
    1. What the author says
    2. What the character says and does
    3. What others say about the character
  - D. **Foreshadowing:** Hints about what is to come (Suspense, etc.)
  - E. **Point of View:** Perspective from which the story is told (by whom story is told)
    1. first person: Story is told by a character, who refers to self as I (narrator)
    2. third person: Narrator is voice outside story, who refers to characters as he, she, & they
      - a. limited: see events through only one character
      - b. omniscient: voice is all-seeing and all-knowing
- II. **Conflict:** A struggle between opposing people or forces; a problem is established
  - A. Internal: Humans vs. Themselves
  - B. External: Humans vs. Humans OR Humans vs. Nature
- III. **Rising Action:** A series of related events that lead to a climax; plot events with complications
- IV. **Climax:** Turning point or high point of story; conflict/problem is resolved
- V. **Falling Action (Denouement):** Details leading you to the story's end/resolution
- VI. **Resolution:** Shows how situation turns out and ties up loose ends



Exposition

Con Flict

Rising  
action

Climax

Falling  
action

Resolution