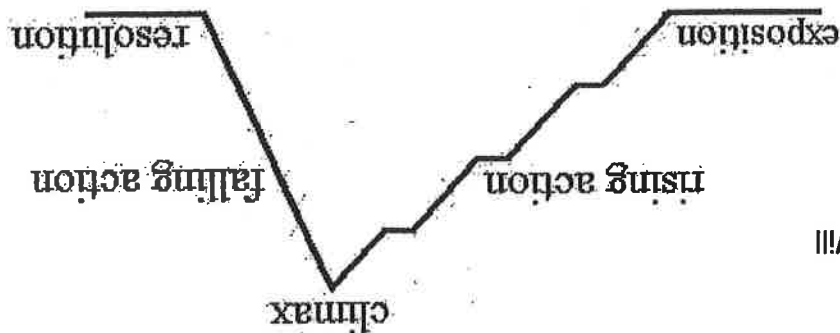


Plot

The **plot** is the sequence of events (what happens) in a story. Take a look at the plot mountain diagram below to see how the rising action, climax (or turning point), falling action, and resolution are linked. Sometimes, the resolution is explained in, or follows immediately after, the falling action.

Things to think about for plot:

- What is the conflict in your story?
- Is context given for the conflict? Will your reader understand why this conflict exists?
- Are the events well-developed and believable?
- Does the ending make sense?



Exposition - Introduces the characters, setting, conflict, etc.

Rising Action - elaborates on the conflict, develops characters, introduces tone, builds suspense, etc.

Climax - decisive point where the conflict must be resolved: could be either a positive event or a negative one.

Falling Action - the results of the climax occur: these events can't really be helped because the climax dictates what must happen next.

Resolution - (also called the denouement) the end result of the climax and falling action. In a short story, it is possible that the climax, falling action, and resolution can all be very close together.

Conflict

The **conflict** is the struggle between two opposing forces in a story. Conflict can be

- **internal** - a struggle within the heart or mind of a character
 - *character vs. self* - psychological or moral conflict inside the character
 - overcoming shyness, ending a bad habit, guilt over cheating
- **external** - a struggle created by outside forces
 - *character vs. nature* - a conflict between the character and the natural world
 - surviving a plane crash, a hurricane, being stranded on an island
 - *character vs. society* - a conflict between a character and larger groups
 - a non-native speaker in a new culture, a rebel to a government
 - *character vs. character* - a conflict between one character and another
 - fighting with a parent or sibling, romance troubles, avoiding a bully
 - if the character is avoiding a clique of "mean girls" or bullies, see *character vs. society*

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