

Plot: The chain of related events that explains what happens in the story in 5 phases:

1. **Exposition:** The beginning; the characters, setting, and main conflict are introduced; background is explained.
 2. **Rising Action:** More problems or events happen and the conflict increases in intensity.
 3. **Climax:** The pivotal/turning point in the story – often the most exciting – where the drama reaches its highest point. Often when the main problem is faced and solved by the main character. The events of the story start to move in a different direction – not always a positive one.
 4. **Falling Action:** The action/events following the turning point which lead the reader to the ending.
 5. **Conclusion/Resolution:** The solution is achieved, smaller problems are resolved, and the action comes to an end.
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Theme: The message or messages the author wishes to convey. Sometimes themes are lessons/opinions the author wishes to teach; other times themes are simply the questions the author wishes the reader to consider. Most stories have more than one theme.

Setting: When and where the story takes place

Characters: Persons/creatures in story

- Protagonist: The main character in a story; not necessarily a hero
- Antagonist: The person or force who opposes main character

Conflict: The problem or struggle the protagonist encounters

- Man vs. Self: A character faces an inner struggle/turmoil.
- Man vs. Man: A character(s) struggles against another character(s).
- Man vs. Society: A character(s) struggles against a community, culture, or government.
- Man vs. Nature: A character(s) struggles against inanimate elements/forces of nature.

P.O.V. / Point of View: The perspective from which the story is being told by the narrator.

- 1st Person: The author uses 1st person pronouns (“I”, “me”, “mine”, “we”, “our”, “us”) to tell the story from his (protagonist’s) point of view.
- 2nd Person: A rarely-used point of view in which the author speaks directly to the reader using 2nd person pronouns “you” and “your.”
- 3rd Person: This commonly-used point of view is that of an outsider’s perspective—one who’s over-seeing the action, and typically breaks down into 2 basic forms:
 - Third-person omniscient: The thoughts of every character are open to the reader.
 - Third-person limited: The reader enters only one (or few) character's minds.