

GUIDED NOTES: PLOT STRUCTURE

EXPOSITION (Plot Structure): the opening section of a story which provides important background information necessary to the understanding of that story.

1. Establish Setting-Where are we?
2. Introduce Main Characters-Who's this about?
3. Reveal Conflicts-What's the problem?

RISING ACTION (Plot Structure): aka the "conflict," develops a story's characters, problems and themes.

- *The conflict is the longest section of plot structure.
- *The build-up of tension.

CLIMAX (Plot Structure): the moment of highest tension or suspense in a story as a result of the development of the conflict(s).

- *The Turning Point in a story.
- *Also know as the "Crisis."

FALLING ACTION (Plot Structure): shows the results of the climax on the characters and conflicts of the story.

- *A lessening-or reduction-in tension.
- *Much shorter in length than the complication.

RESOLUTION (Plot Structure): resolves (settles) the conflicts of the story.

- *A return to "normalcy" for the characters.
- *Provides a release of emotion for the reader.
- *Ties up any loose ends not disposed of by the falling action.
- *Sometimes referred to as the denouement: which means "to untie."