

Plots and Plot Line Components

The **plot** of a story is the sequence of events that occur in the story. These events follow a plan called a **plot line**. Every short story that you read will follow a plot line to some extent. The parts of the plot line are as follows:

1. **Exposition/ Introduction** - the exposition is the introduction to the characters and setting of the story. The exposition provides background information about a few characters and setting, yet peaks enough interest to encourage the reader to continue reading.
2. **Inciting Incident/Hook**- the first event or conflict that occurs that shifts the story from background information (introduction) to drama and conflict.
3. **Rising Action** - the rising action introduces the conflicts (6 different types) in the story. This part of the plot shows us what it is that the main character or protagonist is facing. During the rising action, the main character struggles with these conflicts and problems. The majority of a story, book, or movie is made up of rising action.
4. **Climax** - the climax is the turning point for the main character(s) in a story. It is typically the highest point of emotion or action that causes the conflict or problem to change or resolve.
5. **Falling Action**- in the falling action, the conflict is reduced and/or resolved.
6. **Denouement/Resolution** - the story is brought to an end with a happy, sad, or neutral ending. Loose ends are usually tied up (unless it's a cliff hanger or purposely ambiguous ending)

