

Key Terms

Exposition

The introduction the story in which characters are introduced and the setting is revealed.

Rising Action

The series of events that lead to the climax of the story, usually the conflicts or struggles of the protagonist.

Climax

The point of greatest tension in a work of literature and the turning point in the action; in a plot line, the climax occurs after the rising action and before the falling action.

Falling Action

The unfolding of events in a story's plot and the release of tension leading toward the resolution.

Resolution

The part of the story's plot line in which the problem of the story is resolved or worked out. This occurs after the falling action and is typically where the story ends.