Short Stories
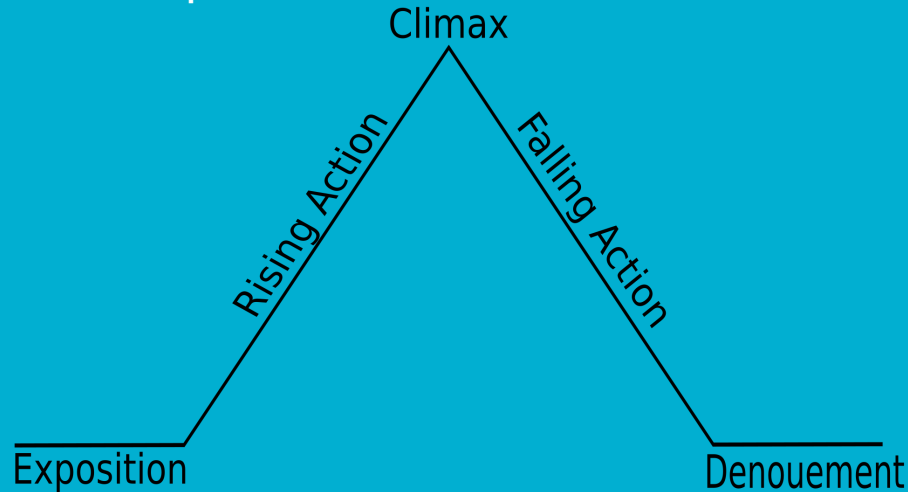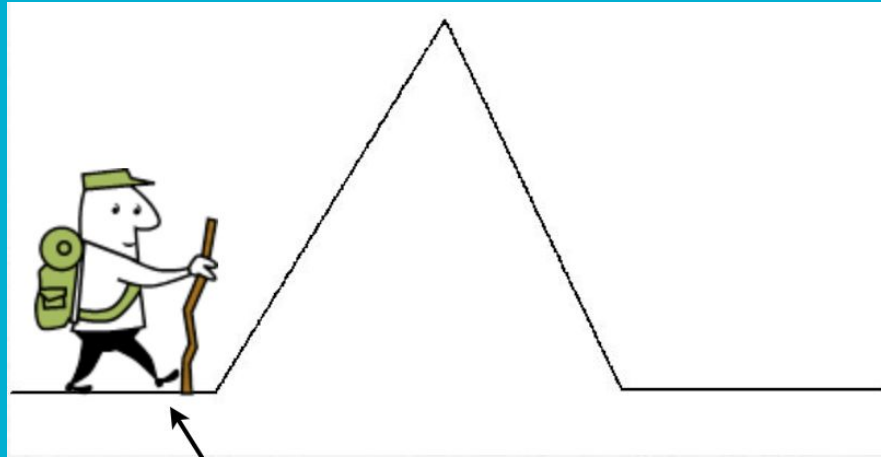
Plot & Conflict

PLOT

Plot refers to the sequence of events that make up a story. These events relate to each other. Plot is meant to organize information and events in a logical manner. There are 5 main elements in plot.

Climax

Rising Action

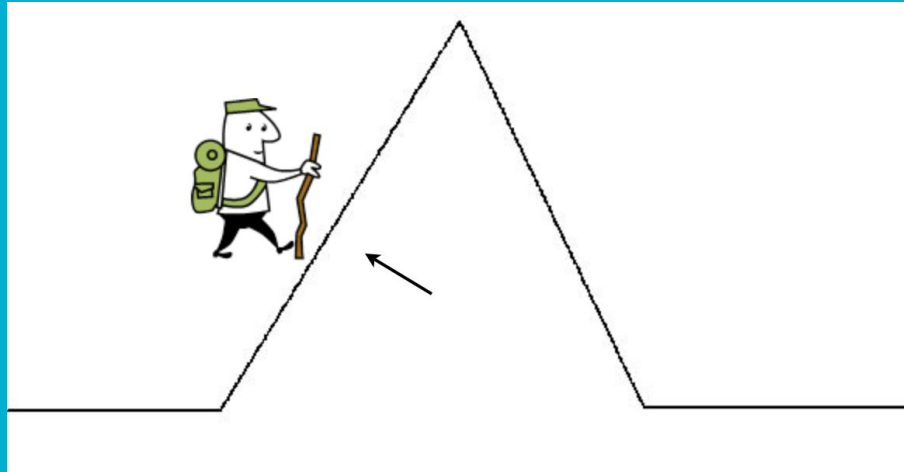Falling Action

Exposition

Denouement

EXPOSITION

The exposition occurs at the beginning of the story and is where the characters and setting are introduced. Usually, the conflict (the main problem) is introduced as well.
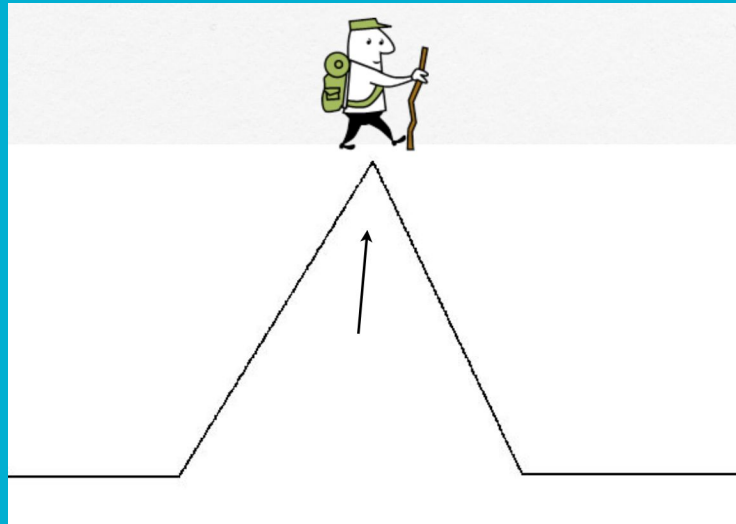
RISING ACTION

This part of the story begins to develop the conflict. Usually, events begin to become more complicated. It is usually during this part of a story that tension, excitement or crisis occurs.
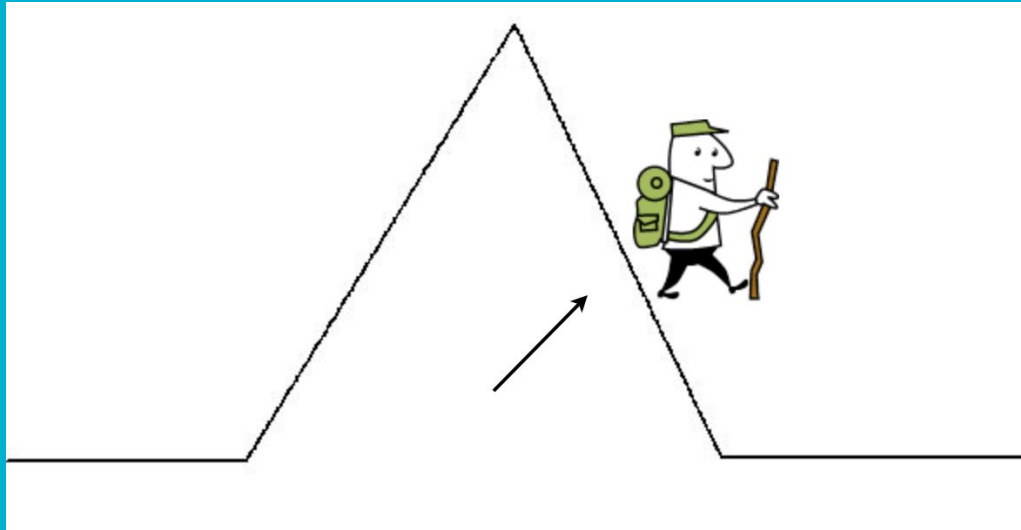
CLIMAX

This is the turning point in the story and should be the moment of highest interest and emotion. Readers will wonder what will happen next.

FALLING ACTION

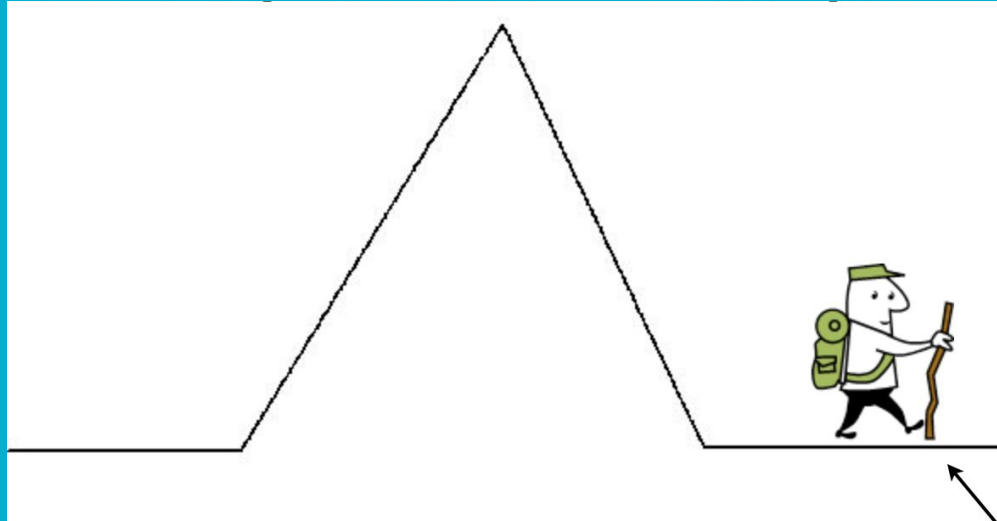This shows the result of the actions or the decisions the character made.

DENOUEMENT/RESOLUTION

This is the conclusion of the story. Conflicts are resolved, loose ends are tied up and the story finishes with a happy or sad ending.

CONFLICT

Without conflict, there is no story.

Conflict can be seen as any form of opposition that faces the main character.

TWO TYPES OF CONFLICT

1. Internal conflict: Internal conflict involves a character having opposing feelings or thoughts about something regarding him or herself.

2. External conflict: External conflict involves a character struggling against others, society, or nature.

Think of an example of both internal and external conflict from a book or movie you have read. How did it add to the story?

INTERNAL CONFLICT

1. Person versus self:
   - struggles within him or herself
   - does not involve other characters

EXTERNAL CONFLICT

1. Person versus person:
   - Struggles between two different characters
2. Person versus nature:
   - A character threatened by an element of nature
3. Person versus society:
   - Struggles against ideas, practices or customs of groups of people