

SKILL: Understanding Plot

Building Blocks of Plot

Every story is different, but most stories follow a similar pattern. In the exposition, we meet the characters and learn about the setting. Then the plot thickens—the main problem is introduced and things get more complicated during the rising action. The climax of the story happens before things wind down during the falling action. Then comes the resolution, when the problem is straightened out (or not) and the story ends. These different parts of a story are known as “plot points.”

Directions: Each block in the pyramid below is one part of the plot of the story you are reading. In each block, write the answer to the question. When you’re done, you’ll see the main plot points of the story.

