

Grade 7 Literacy
Week of October 12 – October 16

Lesson 4: Writer's Workshop – Short Stories

Choosing Your Plot

A story needs characters and a setting but without a plot, it won't go anywhere.

The **plot** is the sequence of events that happen in a story. It contains the situation, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion of a story.

- The **opening/situation** introduces the setting (location, time, and mood of the story) and gives information on the characters. It also **introduces** the problem in the story.
- The **rising action** occurs when events begin to unfold and the problem gets worse.
- The **climax** is usually the most exciting part of the story. It is where a solution to the problem is suddenly revealed.
- The **falling action** is where the action in the story begins to wind down.
- The **conclusion/resolution** is where the story ends. The problem may or may not be resolved here.

In your assignment for this lesson, you will describe the plot of your story. Here are some tips for creating powerful plots that keep your readers turning the pages. Keep these tips in mind when you begin writing your story.

- Decide what the main problem in your story will be. Does the main character face an internal struggle, a problem with another character, or with a greater force, such as nature?
- Decide what events will take place as the main character faces this problem. These events should become more complicated or serious as time passes until they reach a climax.
- Check to see if you need to add connections between events, especially if you are changing place or time.
- Make sure you include events that will end your story in a satisfying way. Don't be too abrupt, but don't drag out the conclusion either.
- What will the key events in your story be? How will the conflict be overcome, or will it?



Watch the following video on plot to learn about the 5 different parts:

https://youtu.be/ihhQOKF_QdQ

Complete the Plot activity on the next page.

1.4 Plot

What will the key events in your story be? How will the conflict be overcome, or will it?

Outline the plot of your story in point form, a web, or in short paragraphs like in the example below. Make sure you have a believable situation, rising action with an interesting conflict, a climax that will grab the reader, falling action, and a conclusion that ties up all the loose ends.

Opening/Situation/Introduction:

Rising Action

Climax

Falling Action

Conclusion/Resolution

Return to your online lesson book.