

The Elements of Fiction

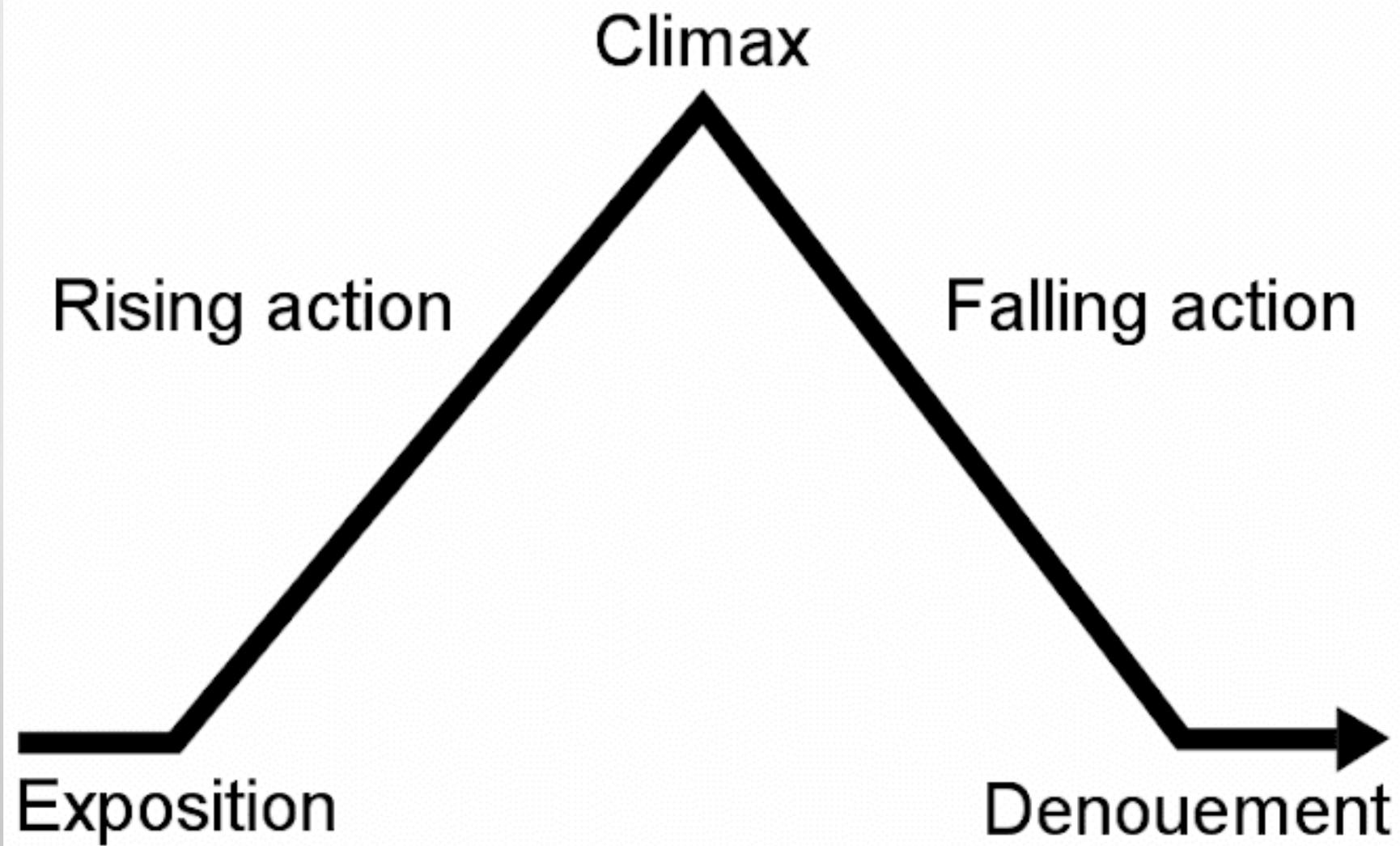
- Plot,
- Setting,
- Character,
- Conflict,
- Symbol,
- Point of View
- Theme

Plot

Plot is what happens in the story, the series of events. This happened, then this happened, then this happened. . .

Freytag's Pyramid:

Gustav Freytag, the 19th Century German playwright and novelist, drew a simple triangle to represent dramatic structure and highlighted seven parts he considered necessary to storytelling: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and denouement (French for “the ending”).



Elements of dramatic structure in Freytag's Pyramid:

1.Exposition: The storyteller sets the scene and the character's background.

2.Rising Action: The story builds. There is often a *complication*, which means the problem the character tried to solve gets more complex.

3.Climax: The story reaches the point of greatest tension between the protagonist and antagonist (or if there is only one main character, the darkness or lightness of that character appears to take control).

4.Falling Action: The story shifts to action that happens as a result of the climax, which can also contain a *reversal* (when the character shows how they are changed by events of the climax).

5.Resolution: The character solves the problem or conflict.

6.Denouement: French for “the ending,” the denouement is often happy if it’s a comedy, and dark and sad if it’s a tragedy.

Setting

Setting is the time and place (or when and where) of the story. It's a literary element of literature used in novels, short stories, plays, films, etc., and usually introduced during the exposition (beginning) of the story, along with the [characters](#). The setting may also include the environment of the story, which can be made up of the physical location, climate, weather, or social and cultural surroundings.

- Time: ex-1880, 2nd century BC, 1pm, 12 noon
- Place: Mumbai, New York, School, Road
- Environment: Winter, Summer, Rain, Storm

Character

A character is a person, animal, being, creature, or thing in a story. Writers use characters to perform the actions and speak dialogue, moving the story along a plot line.

Types of Character-

1. Major characters-

a. Protagonist – This is the main character, around which the whole story revolves.

b. Antagonist- The opposite of the protagonist is the antagonist. An **antagonist** is a character who opposes the protagonist.

2. Minor Characters-

Conflict

In literature, a conflict is a literary device characterized by a struggle between two opposing forces.

Two types of conflict are possible: External and Internal.

External conflict- could be man against nature (people in a small lifeboat on a rough ocean) or man against man.

Internal Conflict- While internal conflict might not seem as exciting as external, remember that real life has far more internal than external conflict. for example, a struggle to. make a decision or overcome a feeling. Internal conflicts are character vs. self.

Symbol

A person, place or object which has a meaning in itself but suggests other meanings as well. Things, characters and actions can be symbols. Anything that suggests a meaning beyond the obvious. Some symbols are conventional, generally meaning the same thing to all readers.

For example: bright sunshine symbolizes goodness and water is a symbolic cleanser.

Point Of View

Point of View is the “narrative point of view,” how the story is told more specifically, who tells it.

Point-of-view includes **first person** ("I" and "me"), **second person** ("you"--this is very rarely used in fiction) and **third person** ("He," "she," "Nick" and "Abby").

Themes

The main idea or underlying meaning of a literary work. A theme may be stated or implied. Theme differs from the subject or topic of a literary work in that it involves a statement or opinion about the topic. Themes may be major or minor.

Thank you