

SHORT STORY

Parts of the short story

The ^{short} story has four main parts:

- 1) **plot**
- 2) **characters**
- 3) **setting** - physical = time & place
- emotional = mood
- 4) **theme**

I. Plot

The plot is the **action** in the story. The plot has four main parts:

1. **introduction** — inciting incident
2. **rising action**
3. **climax**
4. **conclusion** — dénouement (falling action)

Introduction

The introduction has four purposes:

1. **introduce the characters**
2. **give idea of the setting**
3. **foreshadowing = clues as to events to come**
4. **arouse reader's interest = hook**

Rising Action

The rising action constitutes the major portion of the **plot**. It is a series of

Steps that develop the clues and **actions** hinted at in the introduction.

Climax

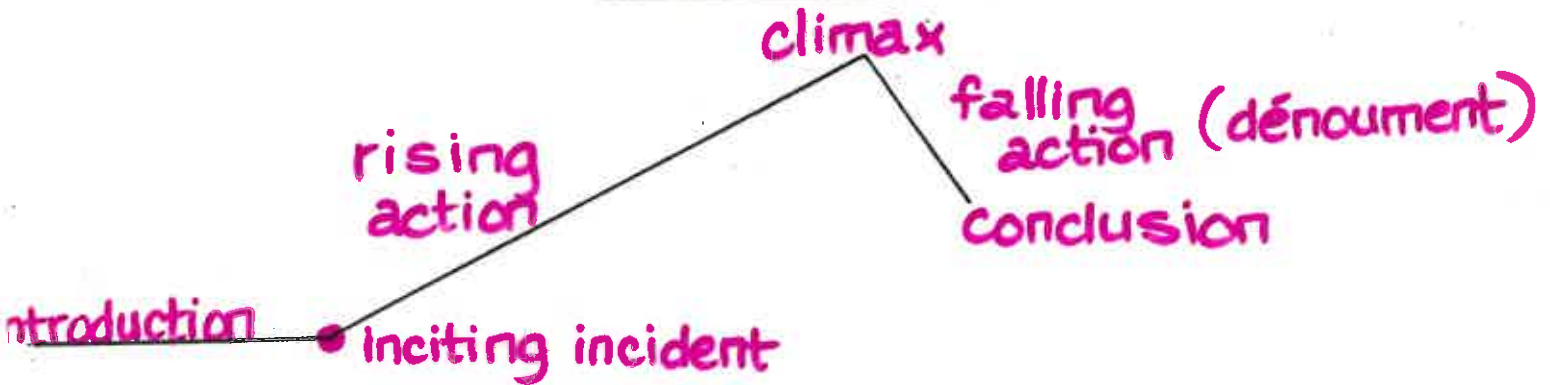
The climax is the **turning point** of the action. It is the high point of interest in the story and it is where the main conflict is **resolved**

Conclusion

The conclusion follows soon after the climax. It explains any details

which could not be explained before the climax or the plot / suspense would be ruined.

A Typical Plot Graph



II. Characters

Characters are revealed in three ways:

direct < ^{1.} author
^{2.} other characters

indirect - ^{3.} character themselves = through actions
= dialogue

A character trait is a quality which a character possesses for which there is

proof in the story.

The protagonist is the main character in the story with whom we

sympathize or relate/identify

* the character we know the most about

The antagonist is the character (force, idea or emotion) who is directly

opposed to the protagonist

Conflict is the clash of opposing persons forces, ideas or emotions. It is used to heighten interest.

There are two main types of conflict:

1. internal conflict which is:

a) person vs. self

2. external conflict which is:

a) person vs. person / society

b) person vs. supernatural (unknown)

c) person vs. nature

d) person vs. technology

III. Setting

The complete setting has two parts:

a. The physical setting which is:

a) time

b) place

b. The emotional setting which is:

a) mood/atmosphere e.g. sad, happy, depressing,

bleak, hopeful

IV. Theme

The theme is the main idea behind the story. It is the author's feelings about some significant aspect of life and is the reason for his writing the story.

Literary Techniques

Some techniques used to hold the reader's attention include:

- 1) Suspense
- 2) Foreshadowing
- 3) Irony
- 4) Humor
- 5) Dialogue
- 6) Coincidence
- 7) Symbolism

Suspense

Suspense involves uncertainty as to the outcome of the story.

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing involves hints or clues or warnings about something that will happen further on in the story.

Irony

Irony occurs when something happens which is the complete opposite of what is expected.

Situational
Verbal
Dramatic

Humor

Humor is the use of funny or comical language or events.

Dialogue

Dialogue is a conversation between two or more characters.

Coincidence

Coincidence occurs when events which happen accidentally seem to have been planned

Symbolism

Symbolism is the use of something to **represent** or **stand** for something else.

Universal → known across a culture

Contextual → need the context of the story to understand the symbol

Point of View

Point of view is the **eye** through which the story is told.

This is usually:

- 1) **First Person** ⇒ "I" limited omniscient
- 2) **Third Person** ⇒ "he, she, it, they, etc..."
omniscient (PRONOUNS) PROPER NAME
- 3) **Second Person** ⇒ "You"

