

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Literary elements are the fundamental building blocks that are present in all literary writing. They play an important role in helping us write, read, and understand literature.

Antagonist: The character (or force) who opposes the protagonist. Often, but not always, "the bad guy."

Characters: They are the people we meet in the story.

- *Flat characters* lack depth and serve as poles around which round characters (more developed and complex) orbit.
- *Round characters* are more realistic, more human. Both flat and round characters can be either dynamic or static.
- *Dynamic characters* change or evolve, whereas static characters do neither.

Conflict: A struggle between two opposing forces, usually a protagonist and an antagonist. It can occur in six different ways:

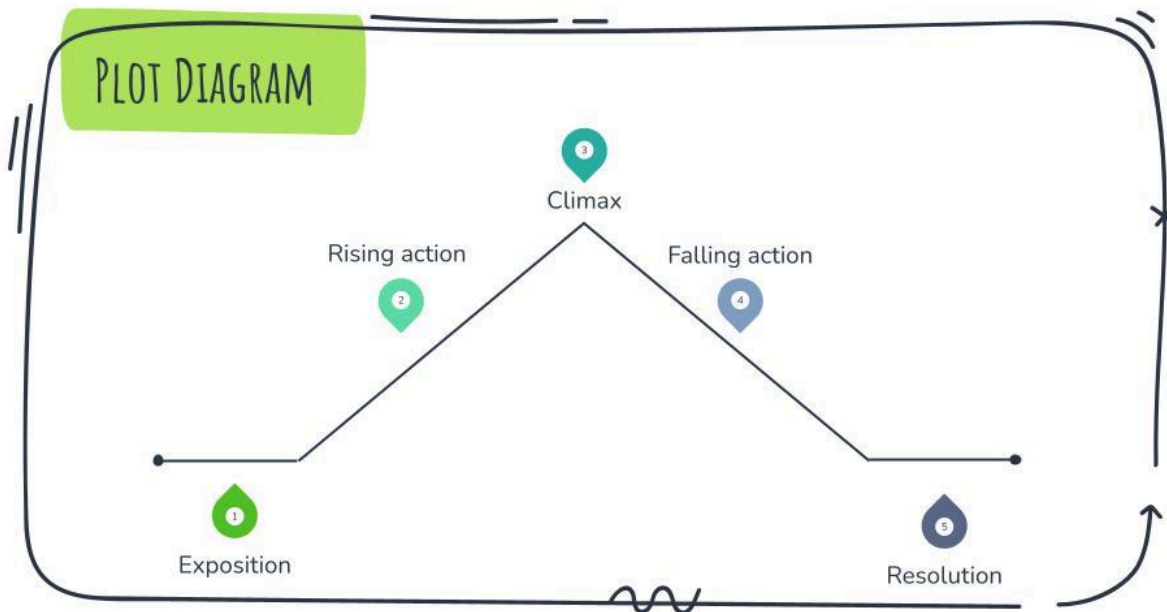
- Person vs person
- Person vs nature
- Person vs self
- Person vs society
- Person vs technology
- Person vs supernatural

Genre: The kind of film or narrative. For example, mystery, fantasy, horror, etc.

Plot: See "plot" description on next page.

Point of view: The perspective from which the narrator views and relates the action of the story. The story may be told in the first person (I), second person (you) or in the third person (he, she, they).

Plot: The sequence of events that make up a story, or the main part of a story.



- *Exposition:* The introduction of any film or narrative. It is here when we are introduced to the characters and setting of the story.
- *Rising action:* This is the moment when the action begins and the plot begins to unfold as tension builds towards the climax.
- *Climax:* The main event of the narrative when tensions reach its peak.
- *Falling action:* Events occurring after the climax leading into the conclusion of the story.
- *Resolution:* The conclusion, or ending, of the story.

Protagonist: The main character and hero of the story – the character(s) we are rooting for (there can be more than one!).

Setting: Where and when a narrative takes place. More specifically, setting is the historical, geographical, temporal, cultural, and social location (whether real or invented) of a work of fiction.

Theme: A message that the writer wants you to get. It's the main idea, underlying meaning, of the story.