

Where the Red Fern Grows

Literature Focus: Plot

Plot describes the main events in a novel. Many novels have a similar plot structure, which include the following elements:

Exposition: This part usually comes at the beginning of the novel. In this part, characters are presented and a main conflict is introduced.

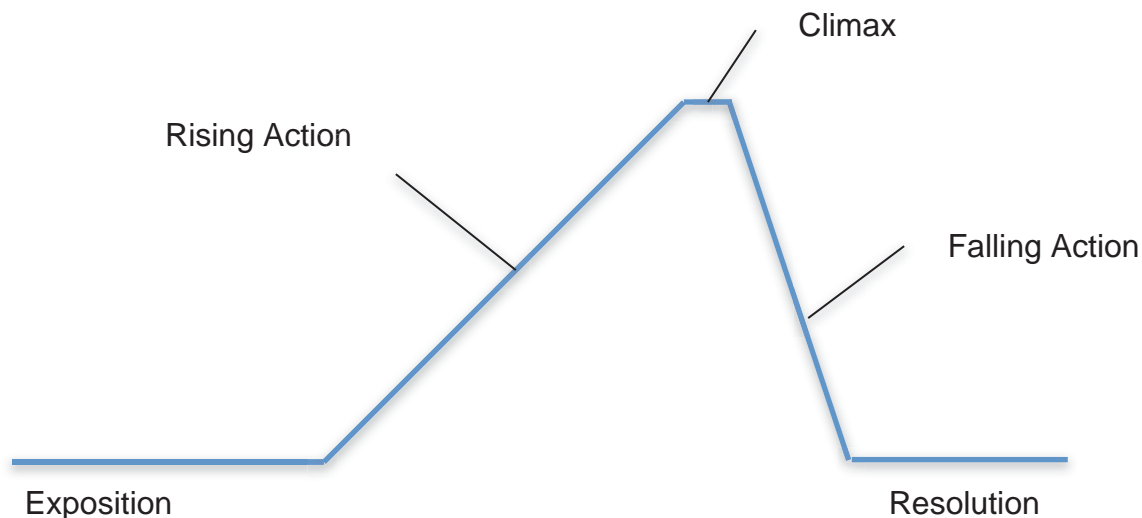
Rising Action: After the exposition there is rising action. Often the rising action is the majority of the book. In this section, the characters and the conflict are further developed.

Climax: This is the most exciting, intense, or important point in the novel. Often a main character faces a turning point that changes the direction of the story.

Falling Action: The conflict between the protagonist and antagonist begins to clear up, and the protagonist either wins or loses against the antagonist. This may include a suspenseful moment or two in which there is doubt about who will win.

Resolution: This occurs after the climax. The main conflict of the story is resolved.

Plot is often represented by a **Plot Diagram** such as the following:

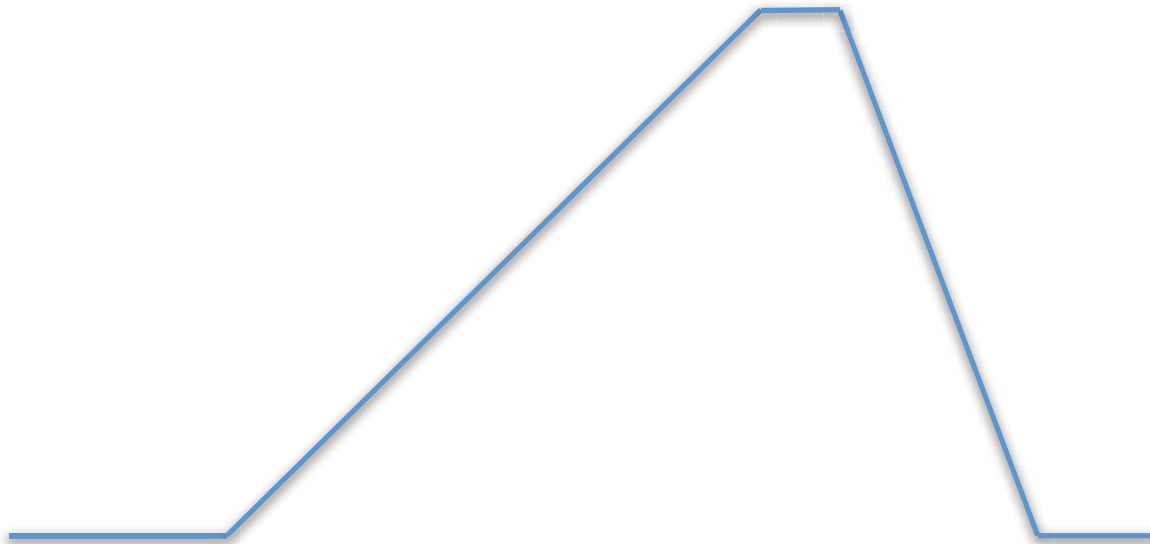


Part I

Directions: First, create a list in chronological order of approximately ten major events from the story so far.

Part II

Directions: Although it is difficult to complete a full plot diagram until you have finished reading an entire text, it is useful to work through a plot diagram at various points in the text. Using the plot diagram below, chart the events in the novel. Write the events that are part of the exposition just **below** the exposition line. Which events are part of the rising action? Write those events to the **left** of the Rising Action line. How close do you think the story is to the climax? Predict what the climax will be. Write your prediction to the **right** of the Climax line.



Chapters 11-12- a quick review and refresher

CHARACTERS, SETTING, AND EVENTS – Provide **text-based details** to explain each topic:

Grandpa's warning	
sharp, metallic sound	
"Thanks old lantern, more than you'll ever know"	
The Pritchards	
ghost coon	
"You might as well get your money out"	

CHARACTERIZATION – Skim the paragraphs that describe Rubin and Ranie around page 124.
List some specific details about each character:

Rubin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____• _____• _____	Ranie <ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____• _____• _____
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CHARACTERS IMPACT PLOT – Describe how Rubin and Rainie’s behavior in Grandpa’s store impacts the plot (keeps the action moving forward):

Chapter 13

CHARACTERS, SETTING, AND EVENTS – Provide **text-based details** to explain each topic:

two one-dollar bills	
large gate post	
Old Blue	
small stick	

MOOD: Mood is the way the story makes the reader feel. Explain your “mood” at this point:

THEME – **Theme** is a lesson or message the reader understands, based on the characters’ experiences. Write about several of Billy’s experiences to show how **one** of the following theme topics has been developing in the novel:

- Determination Standing up to adversity Courage The importance of family
