



Name: _____

Date: _____

Plot Diagram: Identifying Fictional (Narrative) Story Structure

Ms. Brown Grades 6-8

PLOT:

The sequence or order of story events in fiction (e.g. novels, dramas, short stories, and narrative poems, etc.). Each event results from a previous one and causes the next. Plotlines involve the interaction of story elements, like characters, setting, and conflict. There are six (6) main parts of a plotline that can be identified in almost every fictional text.

CLIMAX:

The major conflict erupts into a “final showdown,” or a high point of interest, suspense, or action. It is the moment of greatest tension, when the outcome of the plot hangs in the balance and there is a major change. This is why the climax is also known as the turning point of the story.

FALLING ACTION:

Events that follow the climax and “clean up” the story by tying together loose ends.

RISING ACTION:

The conflict increases, unfolds, and develops through a series of problems that the characters must navigate and try to solve. New, smaller problems arise. The central conflict gets more complicated.
Tension builds.

INCITING INCIDENT:

An exciting or surprising event that reveals or introduces the central conflict of the story. The action begins.

EXPOSITION:

An introduction to the characters, the setting, and the basic situation at the beginning of a plotline. There is little action.

RESOLUTION:

The plotline reaches a sense of closure. (In fairy tales, it is the “happily ever after,” while some stories add an epilogue in which characters appear many years later).
Also known as the denouement.

PLOT DIAGRAM