

SMART™ Lesson

Analyzing Plot Structure

Plot is the sequence of events that make up a story or play. It is the series of actions and events that relate to one another in a pattern or a sequence. Analyzing plot structure can help you understand how the story unfolds and what makes it interesting to read.

Plot Elements

There are different ways to analyze plot structure, but most models will have these common elements:

- **Exposition:** The beginning of the story where the setting, characters, and background information are introduced.
- **Rising Action:** The conflict or problem that the protagonist faces and how they attempt to solve it.
- **Climax:** The turning point of the story where the conflict is at its peak and the protagonist faces the biggest challenge.
- **Falling Action:** The aftermath of the climax where the conflict unravels and the story moves towards its conclusion.
- **Resolution:** The end of the story where loose ends are tied up, and the conflict is resolved.

Questions:

1. What is plot?
2. What is exposition?
3. What is rising action?
4. What is the climax?
5. What is falling action?
6. What is resolution?
7. Can you identify the plot elements in your favorite book, movie or play?
8. Why is it important to analyze plot structure?