

SMART™ Lesson

Plot Structure in Fiction

Fiction stories are often made up of different parts that come together to create a complete, satisfying story. One important part of a fictional story is the plot, which is the sequence of events that happen in the story. Understanding the structure of a plot can help you understand and enjoy a story better!

The Basic Plot Structure

Most stories have the same basic plot structure, which involves five main parts: the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Let's take a closer look at each of these parts:

- The exposition: This is the very beginning of the story, where you are introduced to the main characters, the setting, and the situation that the characters find themselves in.
- The rising action: This part of the story is where things start to get interesting! The characters encounter obstacles that they must try to overcome, and the tension in the story starts to build.
- The climax: This is the most exciting part of the story, where the main conflict is resolved in some way. This is often the turning point in the story and the moment where everything starts to make sense.
- The falling action: After the climax, the story starts to wind down. The characters start to piece together what has happened, and the tension starts to lessen.
- The resolution: This is the end of the story, where everything is wrapped up and the loose ends are tied up. The characters have usually learned something important, and the story has come to a satisfying conclusion.

Plot Diagram

One way to visualize the different parts of a plot is by using a plot diagram. A plot diagram is a simple graphic organizer that shows the different parts of a story.

 Plot Diagram

Worksheet Questions:

1. What is the plot?
2. What are the different parts of a plot and what do they involve?
3. What is the climax of a story?
4. What is a plot diagram? How does it help us understand a story better?

5. Can you think of a story that you have read or heard that follows the basic plot structure?

Great job! You have learned about the different parts of a plot and how they work together to create an exciting story!

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