

## Literary Terms #4 – Plot

- I. Plot – the sequence of events in a story; follows a pattern
  - A. The sequence follows **five** steps:
    1. Exposition – (Introduction) contains the vital information to establish the story such as setting, point-of-view, mood, and introduction of characters . The exposition ends with the initial conflict introduced.
    2. Complication – (Rising Action) the conflict becomes more complicated or difficult; suspense begins; characters are developed
    3. Climax – (Turning Point) the height of the suspense; a major decision by the main character is made with no turning back
    4. Falling Action – the results of the climax are discovered; tying up of the loose ends
    5. Resolution (Denouement) – resolves any remaining issues or questions; end of story
  - B. Plot twists and turns – changes in the ordinary plot
    1. Surprise Ending (cliffhanger) – no resolution
    2. Foreshadow – to provide clues to what will occur
    3. Flashback - is an occurrence in which a character remembers an earlier event that happened before the current point of the story. Flashbacks can provide the reader with motivations or clues.