

Literary Terms #4 – Plot

Plot	Sequence of events; follows a pattern
Five Steps in the Plot Diagram:	
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 inciting incident or initial conflict introduced.
Complication	(Rising Action) the conflict becomes more complicated or difficult; suspense begins; characters are developed. Details before climax.
Climax	(Turning Point) the height of the suspense; a major decision by the protagonist is made with no turning back.
Falling Action	Results of the climax are discovered; tying up of the loose ends.
Resolution	(Denouement) resolves any remaining issues or questions; end of story.
Plot Twists Changes in the ordinary plot	
Surprise Ending Cliffhanger	No resolution
Foreshadow	Clues given to indicate what might happen.
Flashback	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.