

Focus & Instruction

ELAR 8th Grade

Fiction: A Retrieved Reformation by O. Henry



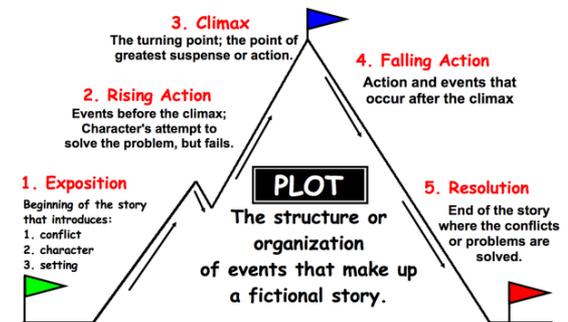
Teacher's instructions for Journal Notes

- You will only copy the **red words**
- Please write neatly



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do the character conflicts influence the progression and resolution of plot?



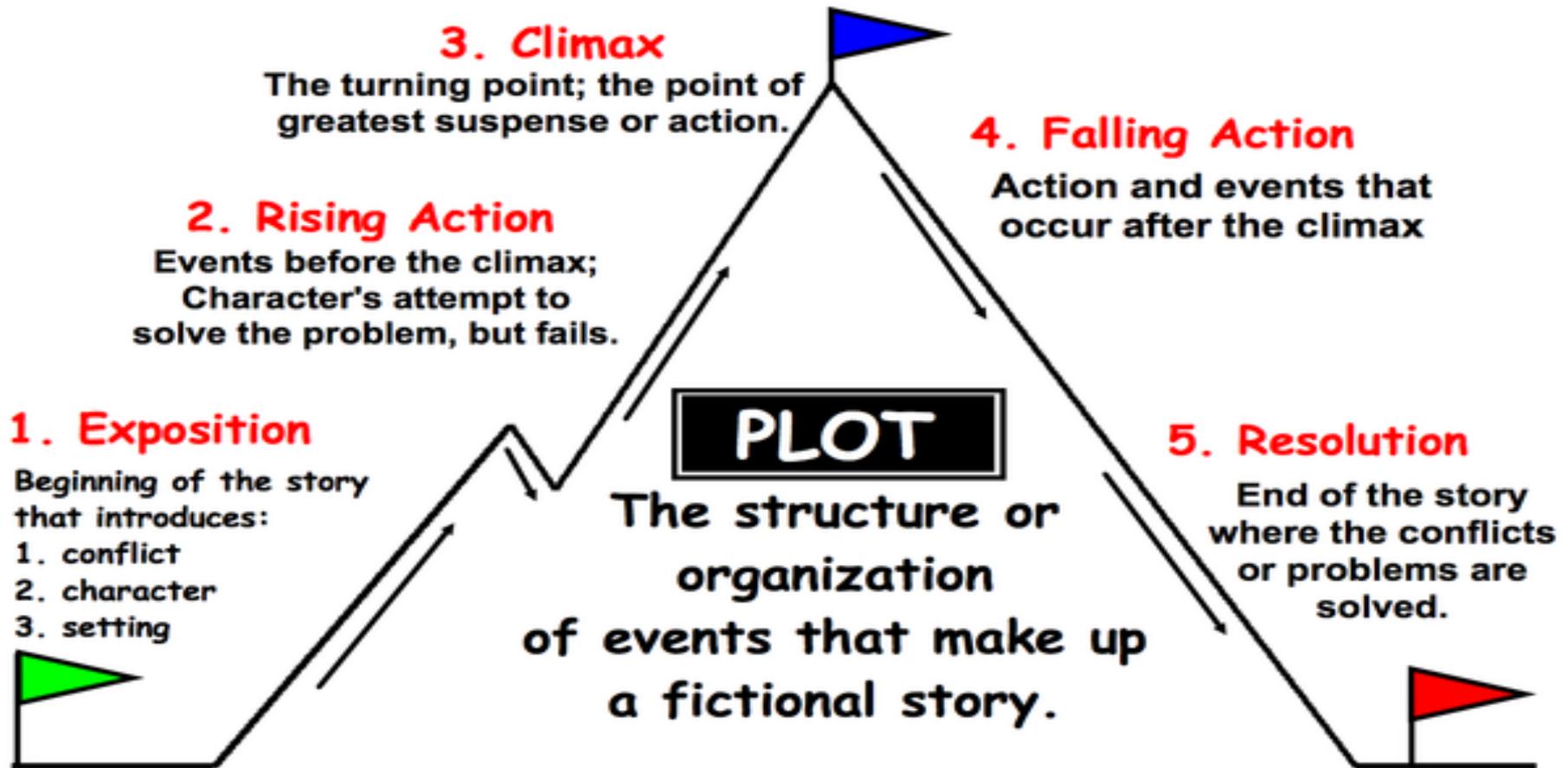
Focus on selected TEKS (8.6A)

ELEMENTS OF PLOT= identify the elements of PLOT such as characters, setting, conflict, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

- What is PLOT? Plot concerns the organization of the main events of a work of fiction. Most plots will trace some process of change in which characters are caught up in a conflict that is eventually resolved.



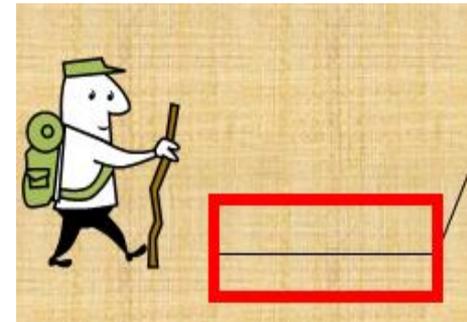
Elements of Plot (8.6A)



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

1. EXPOSITION

This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. This section also presents other facts necessary to understanding the story.



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

Important Parts of the Exposition

- **Setting**
 - Time
 - Place
- **Characters**
 - **Protagonist:** The main character; the hero
 - **Antagonist:** The character who is in conflict with the protagonist in some way; ex.) the “bad guy”
 - **Static:** Character stays the same
 - **Dynamic:** Character changes in some way



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

Point of View

- **1st person**

- This is where the story is told through a main character's eyes. The story is told using 1st person personal pronouns such as I, me, we, or us.

- **3rd person limited**

- This is where the narrator is not a character in the story and talks *about* the characters. The narrator has a limited perspective and can only read *one* character's mind, feelings, and motive

- **3rd person omniscient**

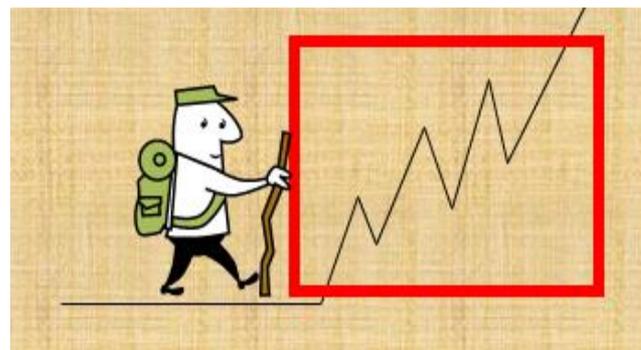
- This is where the narrator is not a character in the story and is "all-knowing". This type of narrator can read every character's feelings, motives, and thoughts.



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

2. RISING ACTION

The rising action includes all the events that lead to the climax. It also presents some type of conflict.



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

CONFLICT

- The struggle between two forces in the story. Conflict provides interest, suspense, and tension.

There are 4 types

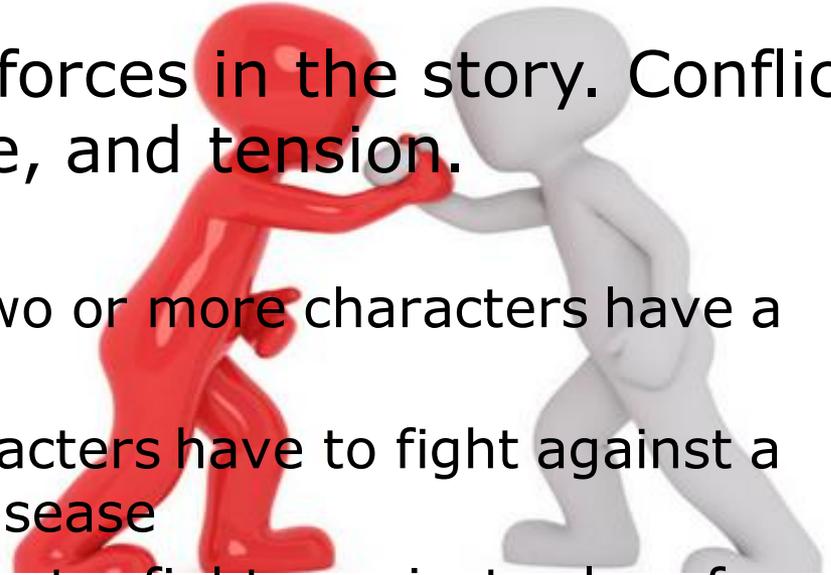
-Character vs. Character-* two or more characters have a problem

-Character vs. Nature-* characters have to fight against a force of nature. Ex/ storm, disease

-Character vs. Society-* character fights against rules of society. Ex/ a character fights racism

-Character vs. Self-* The character is dealing with an internal struggle. Usually moral

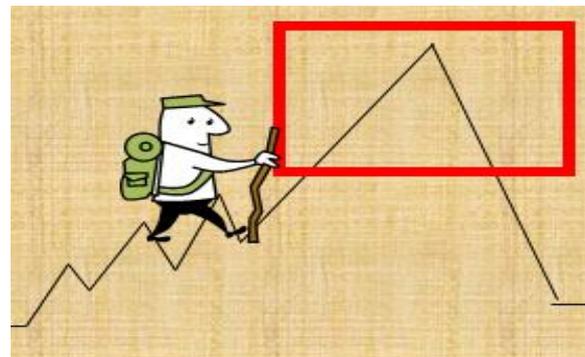
Ex/ Tom Sawyer doesn't know if he should testify in court against Joe.



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

3. CLIMAX

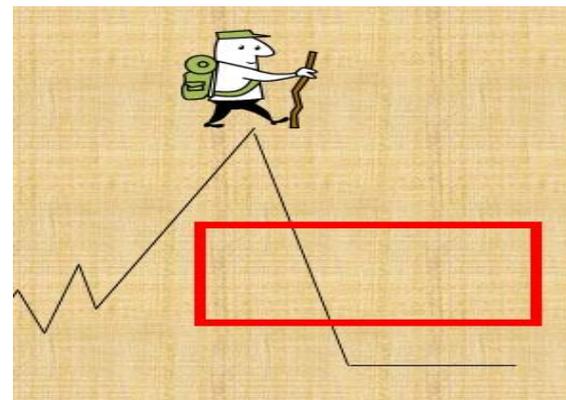
The “high point”. This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

4. FALLING ACTION

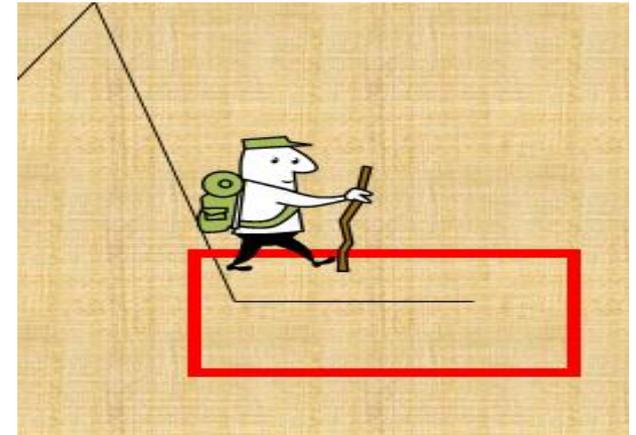
All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict(s) and climax are taken care of.



Elements of Plot (8.6A)

5. RESOLUTION

The story comes to a reasonable ending.



Building Background

O. Henry

O. Henry was the pen name of nineteenth-century American writer William Sydney Porter (1862–1910), who wrote numerous short stories still widely read and appreciated for their wit, warmth, and twist endings. "A Retrieved Reformation" is about a former convict who tries to start a new life, only to see his criminal past catch up with him. The story was first published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 1903, and was later adapted into a 1928 film, *Alias Jimmy Valentine*.



A Retrieved Reformation by O Henry

STUDY SYNC VIDEO

Historical Context of *A Retrieved Reformation*

American prisons saw a great deal of change and reform during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1903, the year in which O. Henry wrote "A Retrieved Reformation," Progressive Era politics greatly informed the government's approach to punishment and rehabilitation.



Historical Context of *A Retrieved Reformation* (cont.)

Recent industrialization and high numbers of immigration meant that American cities were over-populated, and as people competed for jobs and housing, crime grew with the struggle. Politicians and social reformers did not believe that people broke the law simply because they wanted to; rather, reformers saw law-breaking as a direct result of mental health issues. In the absence of mental illness, progressives believed that people broke the law in response to their social environment, such as a homeless person stealing food. If that same person had access to reasonable work and pay, they reasoned, they would be less likely to break the law. In that same vein, progressive reformers sought to fix the very causes of crime, such as poverty and unemployment, and they focused on social programs as a way to achieve this.



Historical Context of *A Retrieved Reformation* (cont.)

Progressive reformers were also the first to introduce probation and parole programs and tended to shy away from fixed sentences. Instead, convicts were often given an undetermined sentence and released based on “good behavior” and evidence of reform.



REVIEW VOCABULARY

Alibi

Captivate

Leisurely

Patent

Prosperity





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