

**Plot** is an element of fiction used to describe the *events* that take place in the story. The events are often broken down into beginning, middle and end. In theatre, and sometimes in literature, these sections of the story are thought of as Acts I, II, and III.

Act One: The beginning of the story is called the **exposition**. Often, the reader is introduced to the main character, also called the *protagonist*, and the setting.

As the plot moves forward, the reader should discover the protagonist's **internal and external conflicts**.

Act Two: The protagonist's conflicts should become more and more *intense* and *severe* during the middle of the story. This portion of the plot is often times called the **rising action** specifically for this reason. Don't be afraid to put your character through increasingly difficult situations leading to the climax.

Act Three: The **climax** of the story often times takes place at the beginning of Act Three, but this is not a rule set in stone. The climax is the point in the plot that is the most intense, exciting, and is a turning point. After the climax, events should lead to the **resolution**. This is often termed, **falling action**. The resolution is the point at which the protagonist is able to settle his conflicts.

## Act One: introduce the characters, setting, and conflicts

Important Events

Protagonist's Internal and External Conflicts

## Act Two: the protagonists conflicts should become more severe and intense as the lead to the climax, the turning point of the story.

Important Events

Protagonist's Internal and External Conflicts

## Act Three: the climax should be the point of highest intensity and after the events should lead to the resolution, when the protagonist can settle his conflicts

Important Events

Protagonist's Internal and External Conflicts