

# On to some **NEW** Stuff!

If I were to read to you from the middle of Dr. Seuss's **If I Ran The Circus**.....do you think you would understand the story?

Probably not. That is because you are missing the really important information that comes at the beginning of the story. That important information is called the **EXPOSITION**. The exposition sets up the story by telling you, at the beginning, *who* the characters are, ***where*** they are, ***what*** they are doing and ***why*** they are doing it. Let me read the expository portion of **If I Ran The Circus**

Let me now re-read you the middle of the story. It makes more sense now that you have the expository information, doesn't it?

Now... we are going to do an activity that will require every one of you to follow directions quickly and silently without hesitating and making noises or faces. If you do not follow my directions you will lose 3 Tiger Points.

In that activity I pulled a person from the line.... this **action** set off a chain reaction and all of the bodies tumbled like dominoes.

**In a play, the first action is called the Inciting Incident. The Inciting Incident sets off the chain reaction that becomes the body of the story or play.**

- I need you to stand in a line, a single file line that stretches from my desk to the white board. All of you should be standing on the same row of floor tiles.
- Now, turn and face the bookshelves and stand shoulder to shoulder. There will be absolutely no talking whatsoever, you will follow directions and reply, if asked “do you understand”, “Yes Drill Sergeant”. Failure to follow my instructions to the letter will result in a point slip and a 3 point Deduction from your Tiger Point total.

- The Rising Action is a series of conflicts that build in intensity to a point where they cannot keep building and something has to change.
- As you became more and more involved in the activity and you struggled to pass and catch in the time limit, the intensity of the activity grew to a point where the duck was dropped. That building time where you were passing faster, and faster... that was the **Rising Action** of the activity.
- The dropping of the Duck was the **Climax**. The climax is the turning point. The activity could not continue as it had been, and for one person things are changed.

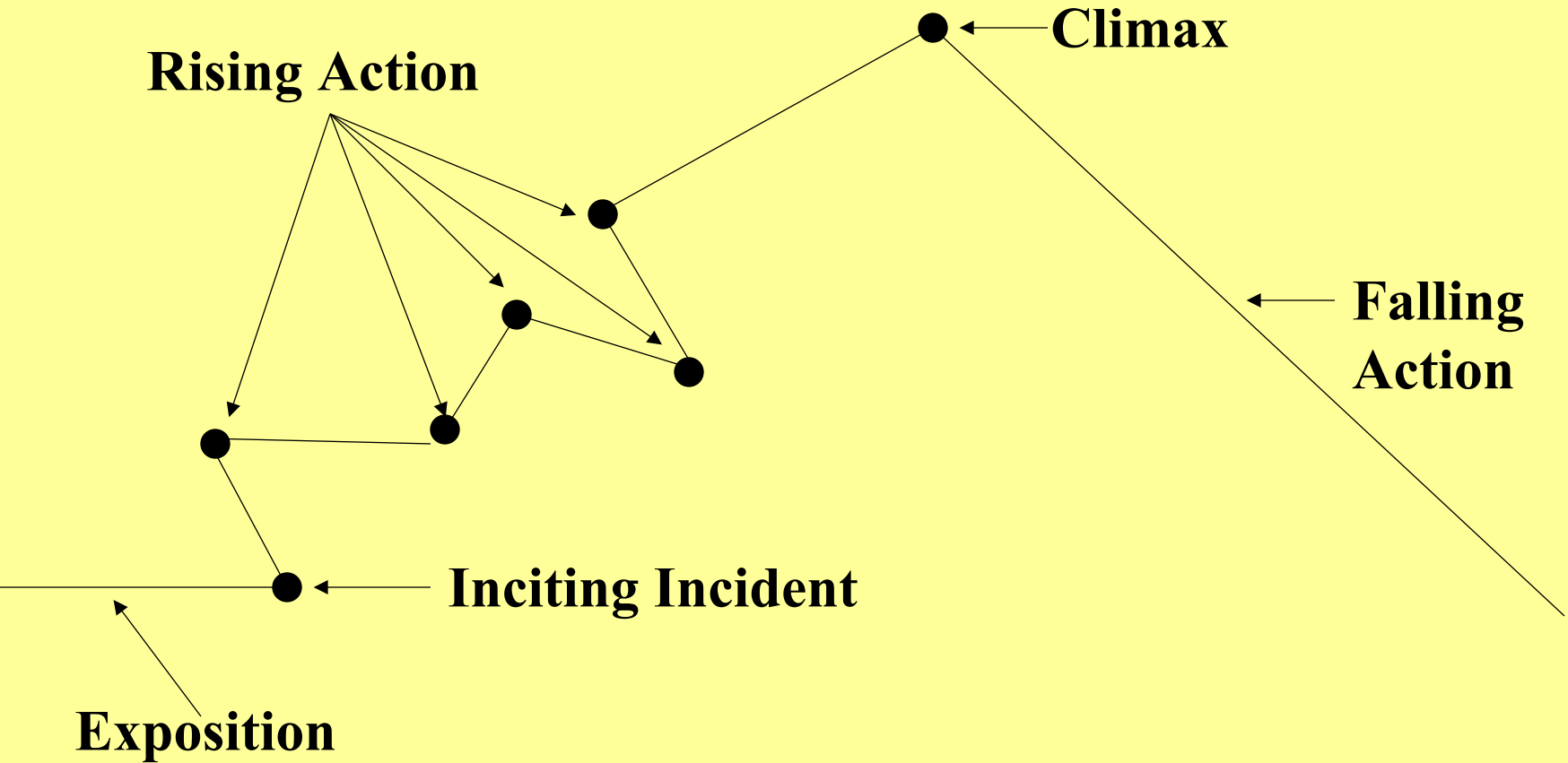
- The Duck Dropper is the **protagonist** of our activity. You all feel very badly right now, sympathizing because the evil teacher has written a point slip. The person you sympathize with in a story or play is the **Protagonist**.
- I, the mean, evil, point-giving teacher, am the **antagonist**. The antagonist is the person who stands in the way of the protagonist getting what they want. As the point-giver, I am the antagonist because lets face it... nobody wants points deducted on the second week of school.

- So, lets resolve this activity.
- The **falling action** is the time after the climax where the protagonist comes to terms with what happened to them.
- Are you coming to terms with that point slip?  
Didn't think so.
- Fortunately, the best stories have happy endings. In fairy tales they end with “and they all lived happily ever after”. That is the falling action of many plays and stories. It is also the falling action of our little classroom drama today.

- There are two more important terms in learning the dramatic structure of a story or play.
- PLOT
  - Plot: answers the question “What happens in the story?”
    - exposition
    - inciting incident
    - rising action
    - climax
    - falling action
- THEME
  - Theme: answers the question “what is the story about?”
    - the theme is the moral or meaning of the story, it can be expressed in one sentence.

# Freytag's Pyramid –

graphs the dramatic structure of the plot



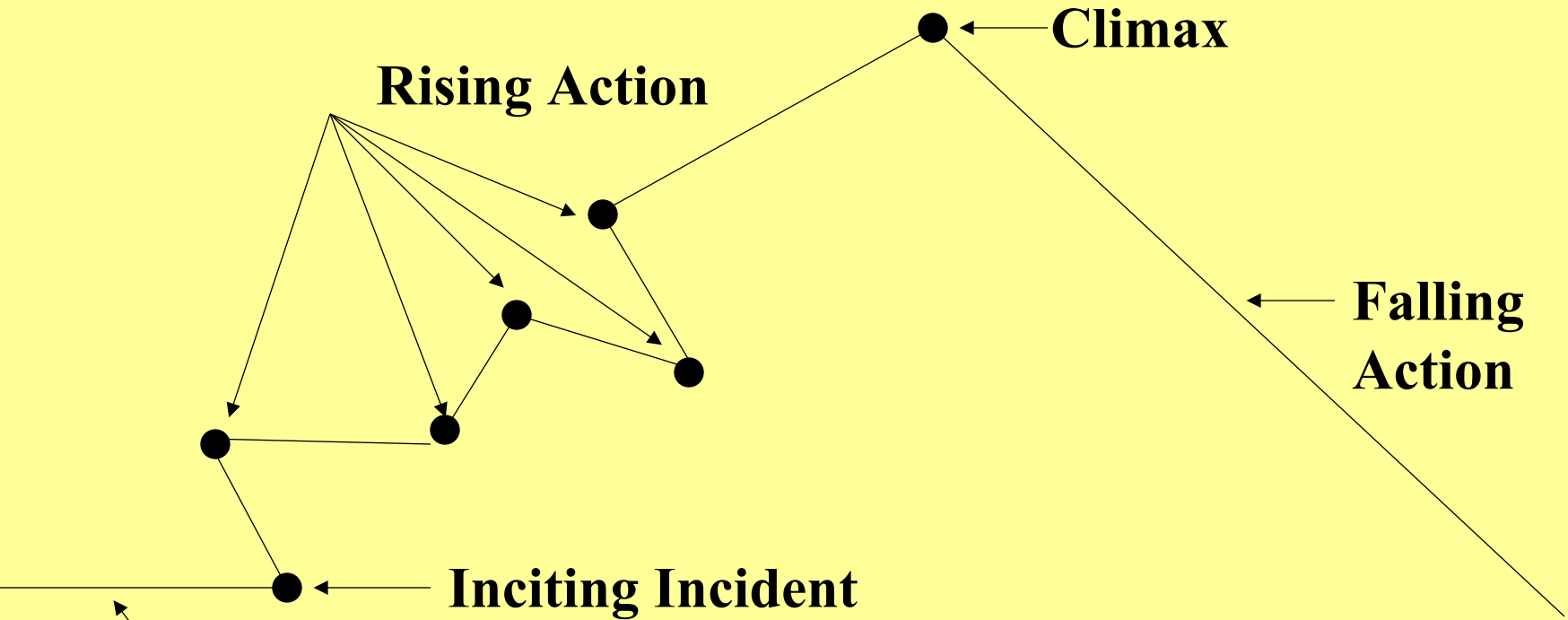


# Your Freytag's Pyramid

- I am going to read you a story, then you are going to use the paper in the middle of your table to graph the story using Freytag's Pyramid.
- The following slide will remind you of the format for the pyramid. Instead of writing the words; exposition, inciting incident, etc... I want you to write what happened in the exposition of The Sneetches, or the inciting incident, the incidents of the rising action, the climax, and the resolution of the falling

# The Sneetches, by Dr. Seuss

Theme:



Exposition

Inciting Incident

Rising Action

Climax

Falling Action

Protagonist:

Antagonist: