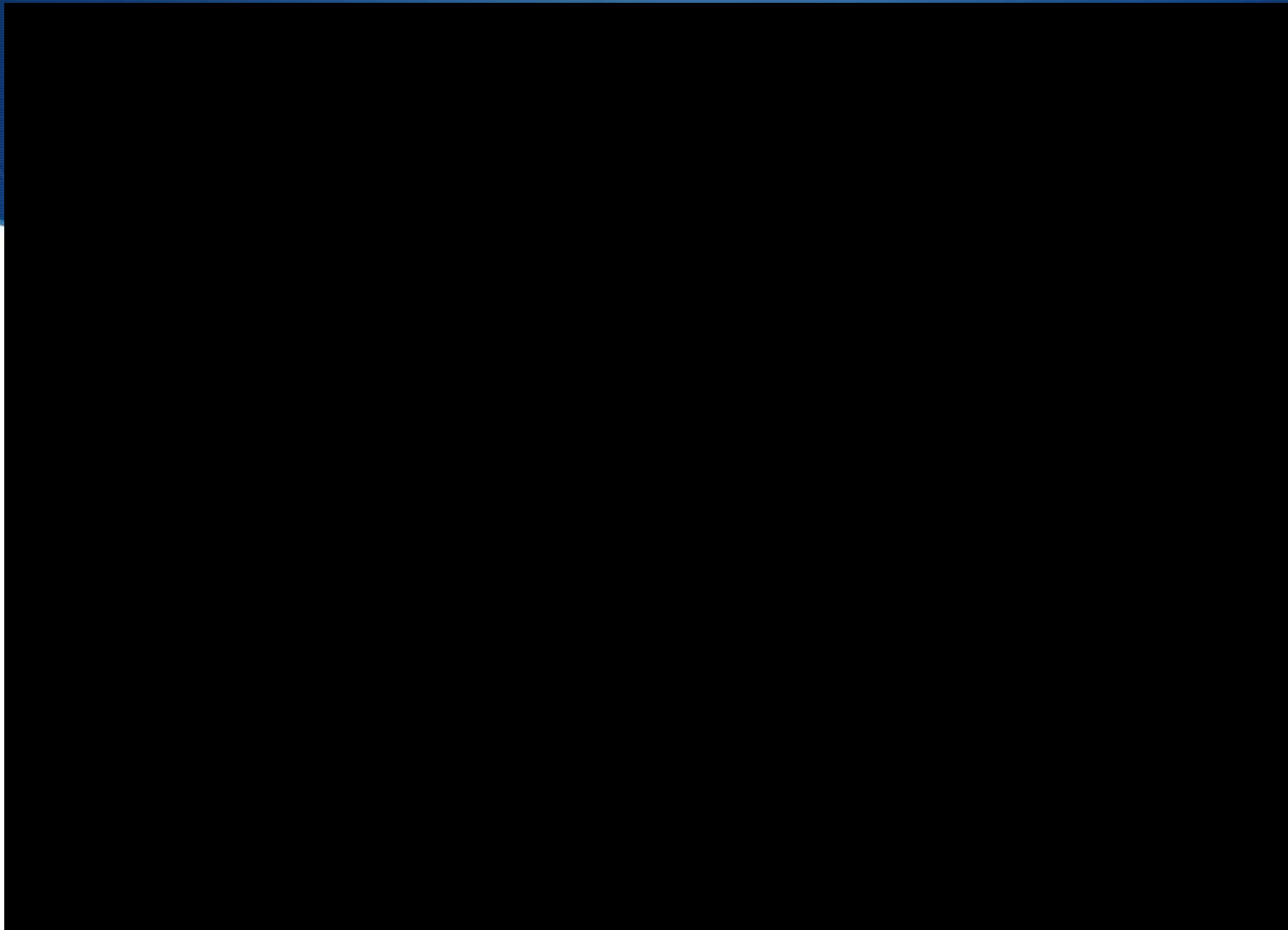


Story Elements



Elements of a Story

- ✦ Setting - The time and place a story takes place.
- ✦ Characters - the people, animals or creatures in a story.
- ✦ Plot - the series of events that make up a story.
- ✦ Conflict - a problem or struggle between two people, things or ideas



Setting

- ★ The setting describes where and when the story takes place.
- ★ It helps build background and create images in the mind.
- ★ It helps set the tone or mood of the story.

Details can describe:

- ❖ Time of day
- ❖ Time of year
- ❖ Time in History
- ❖ Scenery
- ❖ Weather
- ❖ Location



Using the Five Senses

A good setting helps the reader visualize the places in the story.

A good author includes descriptions of the setting using the five senses...

SIGHT
SMELL
TASTE
FEEL
SOUND



Take a Look...Which is better?

The castle was beside the water.

OR...

The waves crashed loudly against the shoreline. The fog lifted lightly and the medieval castle came into view. It was a beautiful site! The fog brushed my face and I could smell the smoke from the fire in the distance and taste the sea salt on my lips.



Characters



Every story needs Characters...



People



Animals



Creatures

The protagonist is the
“good guy”



The **antagonist** is the “bad guy” or force



Characterization

★ Characterization

is the way in which an author shows the personality of a character

★ *Characterization is a technique writers use to make characters "come to life."*

What does the character say? How does the character speak?

☉ What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?

☉ What is the character's effect on others? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?

☉ What does the character do? How does he/she behave?

☉ What does the character look like? Dress like?

Character Traits

Character Traits are descriptive adjectives that tell us specific qualities of a character

- Honest
- Light-hearted
- Leader
- Expert
- Brave
- Conceited
- Mischievous
- Demanding
- Thoughtful
- Keen
- Happy
- Disagreeable
- Simple
- Fancy
- Plain

- Excited
- Studious
- Inventive
- Creative
- Thrilling
- Independent
- Intelligent
- Compassionate
- Gentle
- Proud
- Wild
- Messy
- Neat
- Joyful
- Strong

- Bright
- Courageous
- Serious
- Funny
- Humorous
- Sad
- Poor
- Rich
- Tall
- Dark
- Light
- Handsome
- Pretty
- Ugly
- Selfish

- Unselfish
- Self-confident
- Respectful
- Considerate
- Imaginative
- Busy
- Patriotic
- Fun-loving
- Popular
- Successful
- Responsible
- Lazy
- Dreamer
- Helpful
- Simple-minded

- Humble
- Friendly
- Short
- Adventurous
- Hard-working
- Timid
- Shy
- Bold
- Daring
- Dainty
- Pitiful
- Cooperative
- Lovable
- Prim
- Proper

- Ambitious
- Able
- Quiet
- Curious
- Reserved
- Pleasing
- Bossy
- Witty
- Fighter
- Tireless
- Energetic
- Cheerful
- Smart
- Impulsive
- Loyal

Factors in Analyzing Characters

- Physical appearance/what they look like
- Personality & Character Traits
- Background/personal history
- Motivation/why do they act?
- Relationships
- Conflict or struggles
- Does the character change?
- What do they think and feel?
- How do others feel about them?



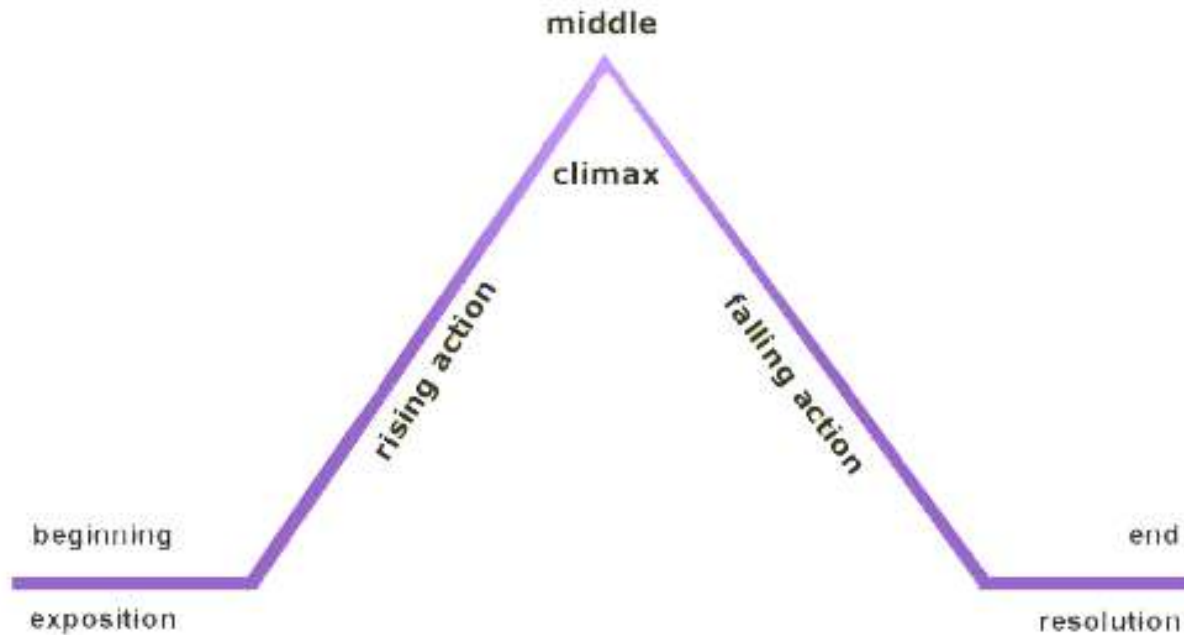
Character Motivation

- ⌘ Character Motivation is the driving force behind *why* the character does what he/she does. (Reasons for character's actions)
- ⌘ What does the main character want more than anything else (main goal)?
- ⌘ What do secondary characters want more than anything else (main goal)?
- ⌘ What potential conflicts or struggles might exist between the characters?

Plot



Plot



Plot - the events that take place in a story. Every story needs a plot! The plot has different parts...

Plot Components



Climax: the turning point, the most intense moment—either mentally or in action

Rising Action: the series of events and **conflicts** in the story that lead to the climax

Falling Action: all of the action which follows the climax

Exposition: the start of the story, before the action starts

Resolution: the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads

The **climax** is the most exciting part!!



Conflict



Conflict

- ★ Conflict is the “battle” between two forces.
- ★ *Conflict is not always bad.. sometimes it helps to create change.*
- ★ Conflict is the struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.



Types of Conflict

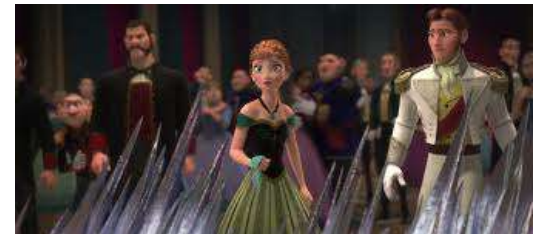
1. Character vs. Character
(problem with another character)



2. Character vs. Nature
(problem with force of nature)



3. Character vs. Society
(problem with the laws or beliefs of a group)
(character vs. community, society or culture)



4. Character vs. Self
(problem with deciding what to do or think; "inner conflict")



