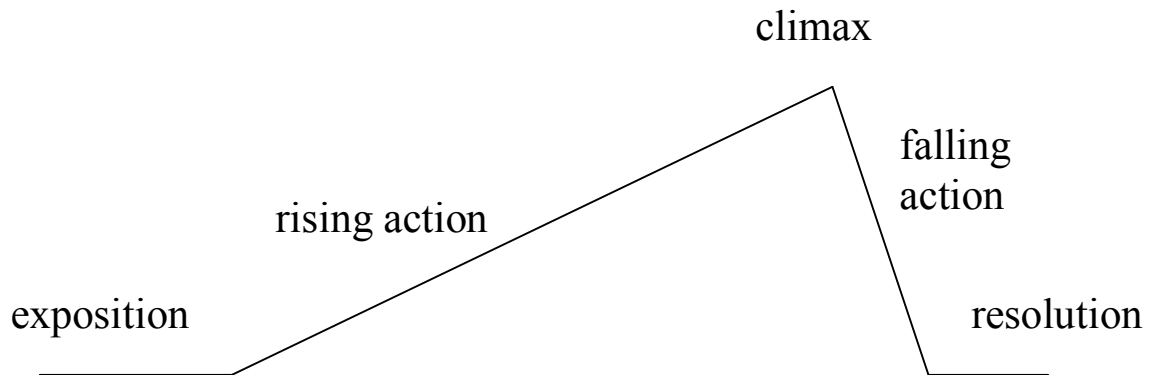


## PLOT OUTLINE



**exposition-** the early parts of a story, in which the reader (or viewer) is informed about such things as setting, characters, and the beginnings of plot (what is going to happen).

**conflict-** the struggle between opposing forces. The conflict in a story may include one (or possibly all) of the following: man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, man vs. himself, etc.

**rising tension-** As the conflict intensifies the reader's level of tension, interest, or excitement is meant to increase. It will increase until the conflict reaches a point of climax, after which the tension will lessen.

**climax-** the high point of tension or excitement in a story. The climax marks a turning point—for better or worse—in the life of the protagonist.

**declining tension-** After the climax has been reached, the reader's level of excitement or tension becomes less intense. In most stories, this occurs near the end. The only thing that remains is the need to "tie up loose ends."

**resolution** (also called the denouement) As the tension declines, unanswered questions about the story and its characters are being resolved. This marks the end of the story.