

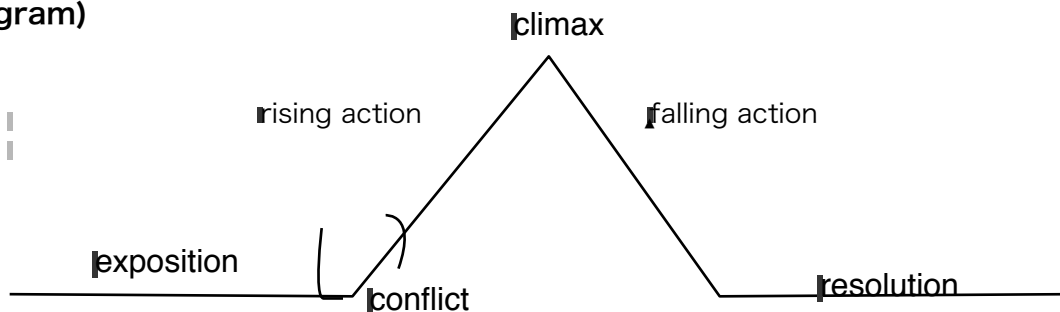
# Literary Terms

## Short Stories

**Active-reading Strategies**--ways to keep yourself more involved in what you are reading in order to increase comprehension

- Question--asking yourself questions about what you are reading
- Visualize--picturing in your mind the people and places in the story
- Predict--trying to guess or predict what will happen next
- Connect--looking at how the people or events in the story are like those in your own life
- Respond--reacting to the events of the story

### Plot (diagram)



- Plot--the series of events in a story
- Exposition--the part of the story that introduces the basic situation, the characters, the setting, etc. (background information)
- Climax--the high point of interest or suspense in the story
- Resolution--the “wrap up” of the conflict of the story (ties up all the loose ends)
- Conflict**--a struggle between opposing forces in a story (usually the basis of the action)
  - Internal Conflict--a struggle inside a character (example: a character trying to conquer his/her own fear)
  - External Conflict--a struggle with a force outside the character (example: the character versus a force of nature or one character versus another)

■ **Characterization**--the act of creating and developing a character (person) in the story

■ Direct Characterization--the writer states outright or describes the character's traits

■ Indirect Characterization--the writer shows the character's personality through his/her own actions, thoughts, feelings, words, etc. or through the observations of another character

■ Character Traits--the different aspects of personality and physical appearance that make a particular personage unique

■ **Point of View**--the perspective from which the story is told

■ First-person Narration--a story is told by a character who is actually involved in the story

■ Third-person Narration--a story is told by someone watching it, but not actually involved in it

■ Third-person Limited--the person telling the story is "human" in that s/he can only related what s/he can see going on in the story

■ Third-person Omniscient--the person telling the story can see everything that happens, as well as what the characters are thinking and feeling

■ **Setting**--the time and place in which the story takes place

■ **Theme**--a central idea, concern or purpose of a literary work--the point the author is making about life--the insight into life the author is trying to give the reader

■ **Dilemma**--a choice or situation that a character faces in which it seems difficult to reach a satisfactory solution (all options bring undesirable results)

■ **Motivation**--the reason(s) behind a character's words or actions in a story

■ **Verisimilitude**--the author creates characters or situations that seem real or life-like

■ **Symbol**--something in a story that represents or stands for something else (especially an idea or concept)

■ **Emotive Language**--language used by the author that provokes feelings or emotions in the reader

- | **Foreshadowing**--words, actions or events that hint at or predict what will happen later in the story
  
- | **Irony**--an outcome in the story that is not what would have been expected (especially if it is the opposite of the expected)
  
- | **Exaggeration**--the author enlarges a character or situation beyond the bounds of reason or truth
  
- | **Figurative Language**--vivid description that creates a "picture" in the reader's head
  
- | **Dialect**--usually found in dialogue, it is a manner of speaking that is particular to a certain region or group of people (the author usually uses it to create characters that seem more real)