

## Part 2: Plot Development

No matter who the characters are, where the action takes place, or what conflicts occur, a story has a plot. Usually, a story begins by introducing a main character who has a conflict. The story then develops around this conflict. Important events move the story forward, often explaining past or present actions, and **foreshadowing**, or hinting at, future actions. As the story moves on, the character must find a solution to the conflict. Once the problem is solved, the story ends. This process is known as **plot development**.

A typical plot has five stages of action. By understanding these stages, you will know what to look for in a story as you follow it closely. For example, at the beginning—or **exposition**—of a story, pay attention to the details that tell you about the characters, the setting, and any potential conflicts.

