

Classical Plot Structure

The exposition introduces the main characters, setting, and or problem of the story.

The initial incident occurs when the conflict begins. Two opposing forces become engaged in a struggle.

The rising action is the series of related events in which the conflict continues.

The climax is the turning point in the story. The main character's fate changes, for better or worse.

The falling action is the tying up of loose ends in a story. Subplots are completed. Main characters are in happy or sad situations. In short stories, the falling action might be a sentence or two, or possibly non-existent.

The resolution is the conclusion or ending of the story. Usually, the author makes some point here.