

Plot and Setting:
Generating Research Questions

CHAPTER OPENER
Chapter 1, Grade 9

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Basic Parts of a Plot

- The Basic Situation (Exposition)
- Conflicts (internal and external)
- Complications (Problems)
- Climax
- Resolution (Denouement)

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Situation or Setting

Explains

- The main idea
- The conflict and complications
- When and where the story takes place

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Conflicts


These are the complications that the **protagonist** must overcome

- Can be internal where the character struggles with conflicting emotions, desires, or needs.
- Can be external where the character struggles against an outside force such as: another character, society, or something in nature

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Complications


Problems or confusions that occur in the story that prevent or hinder the **protagonist** from resolution can be interesting plot twists that keep the reader interested.



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Climax

- The most exciting or suspenseful part of the story.
- This decides the outcome of the story



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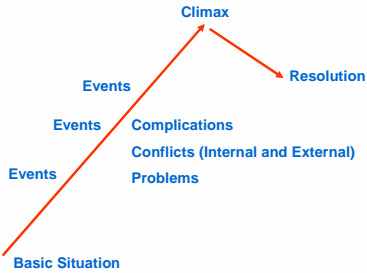
Resolution

Problems or conflicts are resolved and the story ends.



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Plot Graph



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Resources

- <http://www.learner.org/exhibits/literature/read/plot1.html> Annenberg Media explaining aspects of plot and aspects of literature
- <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/plot-diagram/> Web site to have students create their own graphic for plot and include events.
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot> Wikipedia site that explains parts of plot

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