



Fiction

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE
Unit 1, Part 1, Grade 9

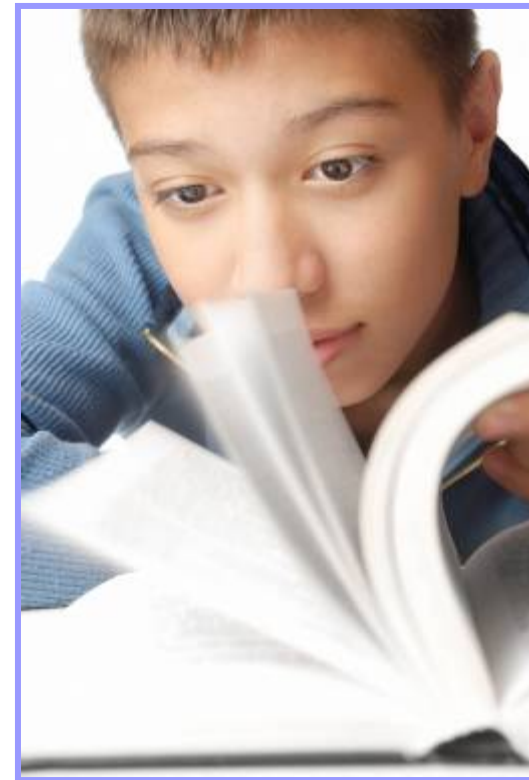
Introducing Fiction

- Fiction refers to works of prose that have imaginary elements.
- The two major types of fiction are novels and short stories.
- Both novels and short stories contain four basic elements:
 - **plot, character, setting, and theme**



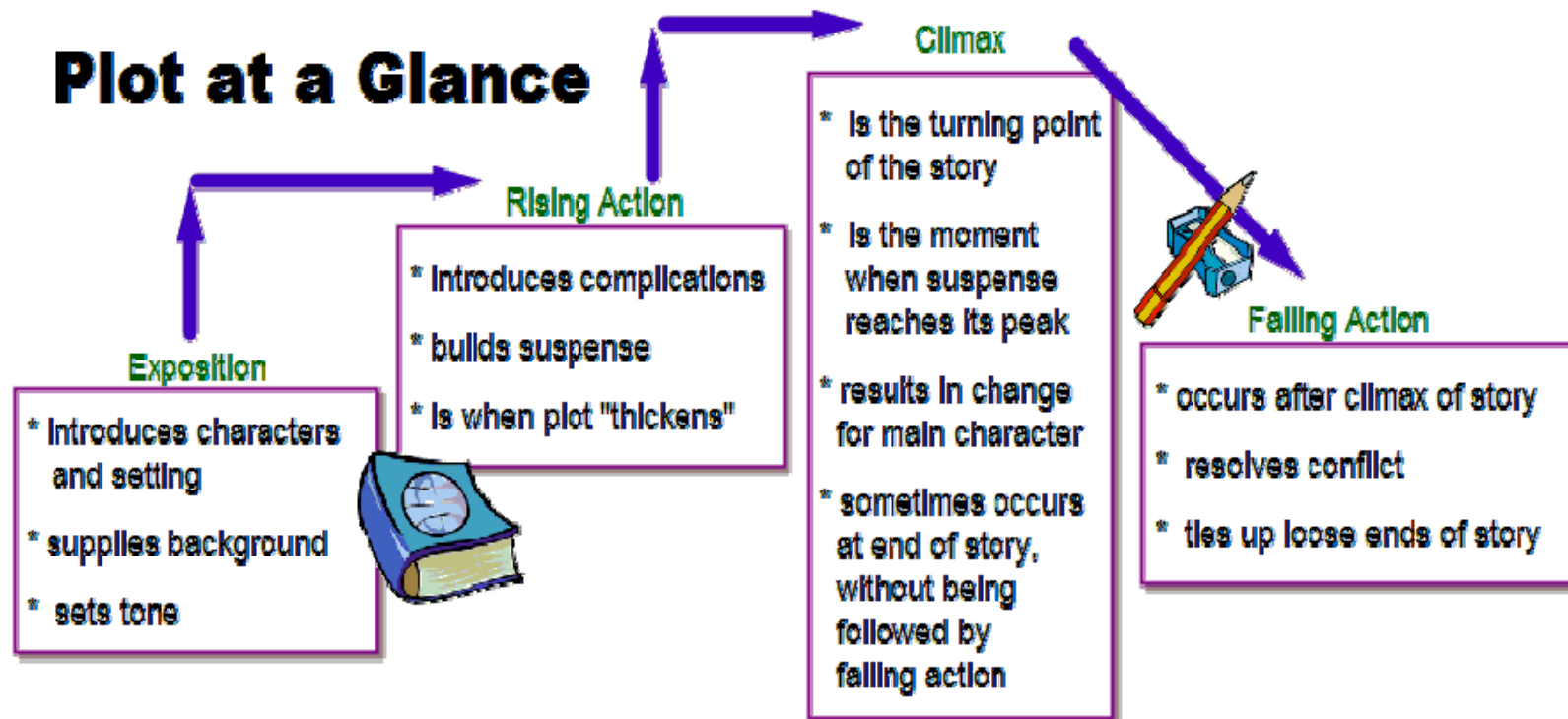
Introducing Fiction

- What are some stories that you are familiar with?
- What are the elements you think a story must have to be called a story?
 - Notice the headings of this lesson – plot, character, setting, theme.



Presenting Plot

Plot at a Glance



What are examples of each stage in the story "Plainswoman", beginning on page 8.

Your Turn

Read the passage at the right of page 23, which is taken from the exposition of “Plainswoman.”

- What potential conflict is introduced?
- Is there only one?



Introducing Character

- *Dynamic* describes something changing or in motion.
- *Static* describes something not moving or at rest.



Your Turn

What details in the passage at the top of page 24 give you clues to understanding the very different characters of Nora and Pleny?



Introducing Setting

Recall key aspects of the setting of “Plainswoman”.

- How important is setting to the story?
- How would the story be different if it were set in a different time and place?



Your Turn

In the passage in the middle of page 24, what words and phrases help evoke the setting?



Introducing Theme

- Themes are not stated directly but must be inferred from the story as a whole.
- What is the theme of “Plainswoman”?
 - Use the suggestions and clues provided in the lesson.