

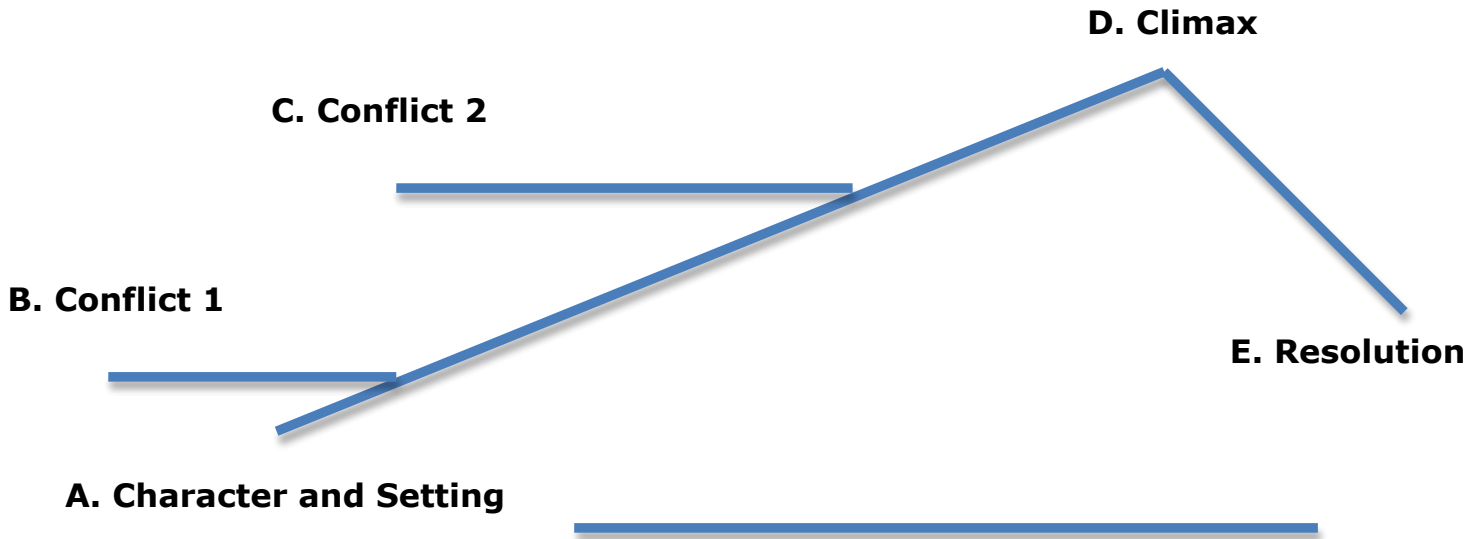
Name _____

Period _____

Date _____

Step 4: Plot – Map the events of your story

Step 4: Plot – Draw a story arc. Start by filling in the problems that the main character has in your story. Conflict 1 will be the first problem. Conflict 2 will show the problem get worse. The Climax occurs when the problem either blows up or comes apart in some way so that the conflict/problem/story will not be the same from this point on. The Resolution will be how the story ends or the problem sorts out.



For each segment of the story, plan out what will take place in your story. Answer the following for each event in the plot. Take a few notes or jot down ideas to help you plan the plot of your story, and use the questions in A – E to help you as you write your first draft of the story.

A. Character and Setting: start out by establishing the character and setting. You will need a way to open your story up. Go back to your study of the stories in your genre book. How did they start? Try to create an attention getter to start your story and introduce the character and setting.

B. Conflict 1: introduce the problem for the first time. Your problem must be bad enough that the reader will quickly understand why the character is in trouble. Try to make an impression on the reader without giving too much away. What is the setting? Who is present in this scene? What is the main character’s motivation (what does he or she want)? What new information do you reveal about the character and his or her needs or goals from this scene?

C. Conflict 2: the problem worsens. In this scene you show the main character's problem become more complicated, intense or hopeless. How will you show this? What details in the setting will show this? How can you make your protagonist/main character feel or seem more hopeless or depressed? Will you use dialogue to show the action? How will you end the scene? How does the main character's motivation intensify?

D. Climax: the problem blows up or changes so much that it will never be the same. Who will be in this scene? Where will it take place? What sounds, smells, sensations do you want to include in order to bring your reader into the world of this scene? What will take place? Will you use dialogue in this scene? Who is talking what must be communicated? How does the problem change and why can't anything ever be the way it was before? The climax should reveal new information about the character(s). What could it reveal?

E. Resolution: the story sorts itself out and the character has changed. What will be the outcome of the climax? What will your character and/or the novel character realize because of this scene that he or she didn't know before? Go back to the study of this type of story. What can you imitate from the other stories to follow the pattern of how this type of story is told? What lessons or morals are learned from the story?