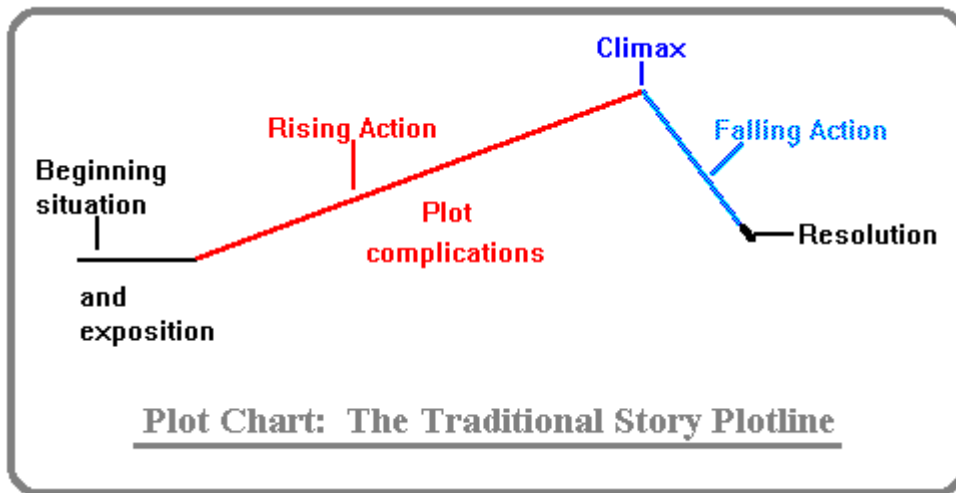


Plot Elements (what happens in a story)



- Exposition: first stage of traditional plot structure; introduces main characters; provides background information; sets scene; establishes potential for conflict
- Rising action / Complication: second stage of plot; characters engage in conflicts; antagonism is heightened
- Climax / crisis: third stage of plot; moment of greatest emotional intensity; turning point
- Falling action: fourth stage of plot; immediate consequences of crisis
- Resolution / Conclusion / Denouement: fifth stage of plot; unraveling of tensions; most questions answered; characters left to deal with consequences of conflicts
- Conflict: struggle between or among characters or entities; how characters deal with conflict helps reader interpret or reconcile characters
- Flashback: representation of past event as if it is happening in real time
- Foreshadowing: references to things such as symbols that will have significance later in the plot