Plot

7 Reading
Imagine if you will…

- You are running a 5 mile race. The first ½ mile is a flat warm-up. All of the training you have done up to this point pays off as you warm up quickly. Then, you reach a 40 foot stream that you must cross before beginning a 4 mile trek to the top of a mountain. The stream is the first obstacle in a series of events that will test you. How will you feel when you reach the top of the mountain knowing that only ½ mile down hill will get you to the finish line? Jot down your answer.
What is your favorite story?

• Think about the most exciting part of your favorite story. Think about a struggle that occurs near the beginning of that story. Think about the other obstacles between the two. Does this story somehow resemble the race we just talked about? When you take your story on this race up a mountain, you are talking about …
Plot is the series of events that take place in a story. But, there is much more to it than just this definition.
The plot diagrams resembles a mountain. **Draw it on the back of your handout.**
The Exposition is the background information that is revealed at the beginning of the story. It includes the protagonist and the setting.

In our race, this would be our training and warm-up.
Explain to a partner:

- Some information from a story you read that would have been considered part of the exposition.
- Be sure to tell them the Title of the book.
- Be prepared to share your partner’s information and why you think it would be important for this information to be part of a novel.
Setting

• The background against which action takes place

• The **when and where**
  – Geographical location
  – Occupations and daily manner of living of the characters
  – Time or period in which the action takes place
  – General environment of the characters, i.e. social, moral, emotional
The Inciting Incident is the event which begins the action of the story. Without it, the story would end up completely different. It introduces the initial conflict for the protagonist.

In our race, this would be our stream.
Types of conflict include:

--Man vs. man.
–Man vs. self
–Man vs. nature
–Man vs. society
Rising Action

The Rising Action is the chronological events which follow the Inciting incident. They are what build the story’s substance.

In our race, this would be climbing the mountain.
What would happen?

• Write down your thoughts on the following question:
  – What would happen if an author didn’t utilize enough rising action? How would this affect how you feel about your favorite story?

• Pair up.

• Share with them your thoughts for 30 seconds. Then they will share their thoughts for 30 seconds.
The Climax is the most exciting part of the story. It is when the protagonist recognizes a solution to their initial conflict.

In our race, this would be reaching the top of the mountain.
The Falling Action is the series of events which follow the climax and precede the resolution.

In our race, this would be the downhill run to the finish line.
Create a different metaphor

• Other than the mountainous race, think of another way in which you could metaphorically represent plot structure.
• Be prepared to share your answer with the class.
The Resolution is the event(s) which illustrate that the protagonist has overcome their conflict, and shows them in a different context.

In our race, this would be how you felt after crossing the finish line.
Without looking…

- Recall and write down the 6 steps of the plot structure in order.