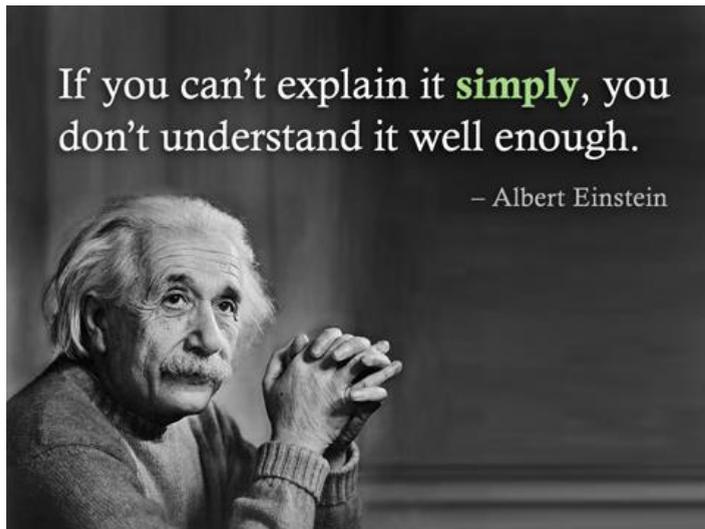


SUZANNE FLEMING AUTHOR

# MASTER CLASS



## PLOT – WHAT IS IT?



**Plot** refers to the series of events that give a story its meaning and effect. In most stories, these events arise out of conflict experienced by the main character.

The conflict may come from something external, like a dragon or an overbearing mother, or it may stem from an internal issue, such as jealousy, loss of identity, or overconfidence.

As the character makes choices and tries to resolve the problem, the story's action is shaped and plot is generated.

In some stories, the author structures the entire plot chronologically, with the first event followed by the second, third, and so on, like beads on a string.

However, many other stories are told with flashback techniques in which plot events from earlier times interrupt the story's "current" events. Or, the author may use sub-plots to expand and explain the story.

All stories are unique, and in one sense there are as many plots as there are stories.

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In general plot describes the story's beginning then advances to rising action as the character experiences conflict; through a series of plot complications that entangle him or her more deeply in the problem.

This conflict reaches a climax, after which the conflict is resolved, and the falling action leads quickly to the story's end.

Things have generally changed at the end of a story, either in the character or the situation; drama subsides, and a new status quo is achieved.

It is often instructive to apply this three-part structure even to stories that don't seem to fit the pattern neatly.

**CONFLICT:** The basic tension, predicament, or challenge that propels a story's plot

**COMPLICATIONS:** Plot events that plunge the protagonist further into conflict

**RISING ACTION:** The part of a plot in which the drama intensifies, rising toward the climax.

**CLIMAX:** The plot's most dramatic and revealing moment, usually the turning point of the story

**FALLING ACTION:** The part of the plot after the climax, when the drama subsides and the conflict is resolved.

Make sure your story has a Beginning, a Middle and a well-developed Ending.

When you have developed your story, please write a **STORY OUTLINE**, and identify the important stages of your work.

***For example:***

**Briefly state how your story will begin.**

**Identify the scenes that build the tension.**

**Finally write a short statement to explain how your story will end.**

**Try to include scenes that could help to bring the story to a realistic conclusion.**

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