

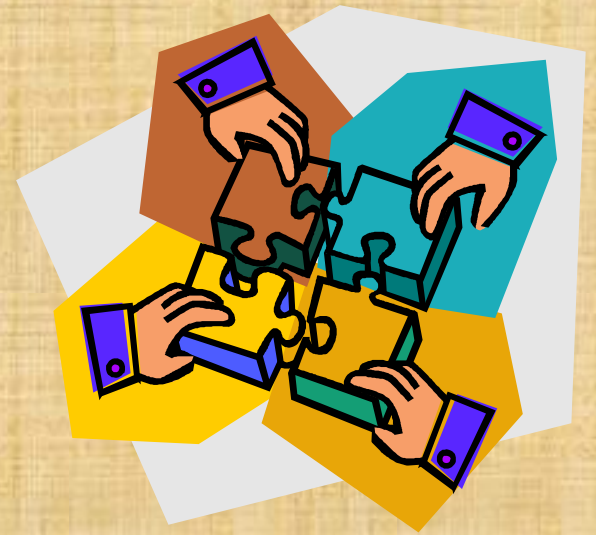
# Identifying the Elements of A Plot Diagram

Student Notes



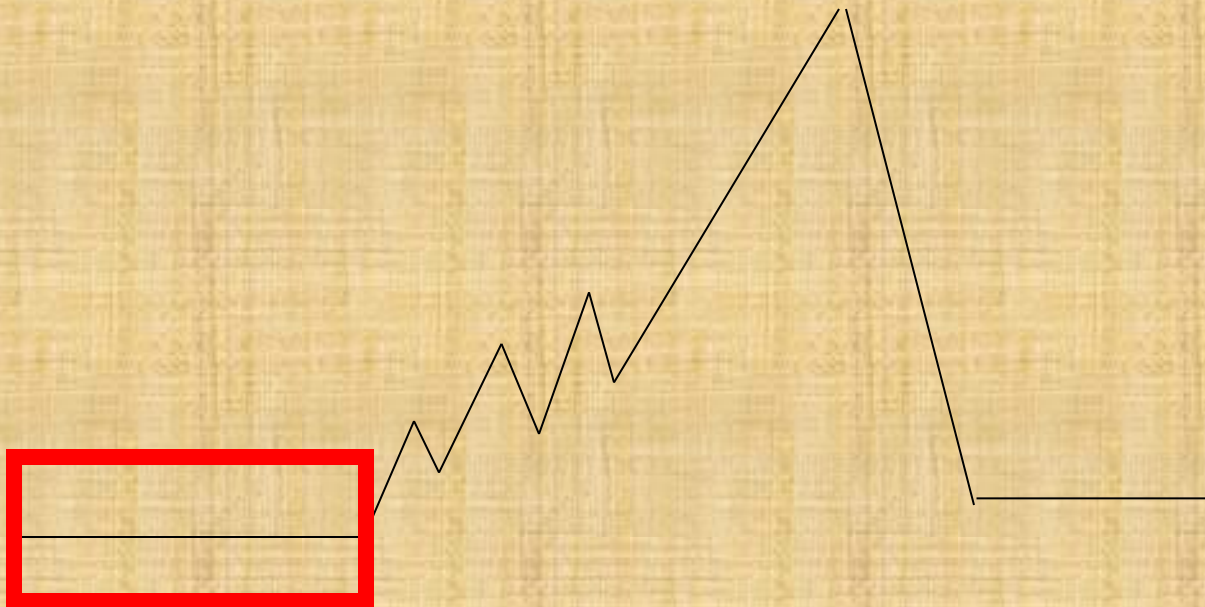
# **Plot (definition)**

- **Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up a story. Every plot is made up of a series of incidents that are related to one another.**



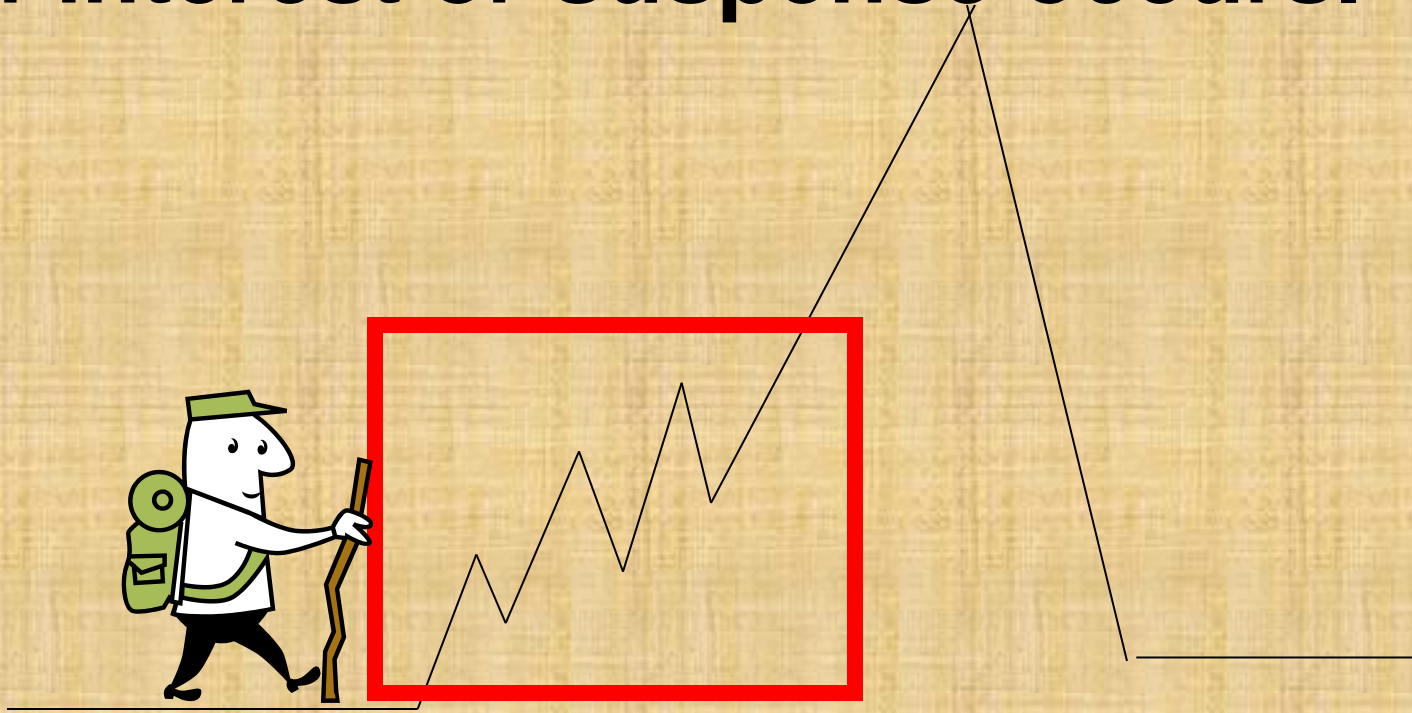
# 1. Exposition

- This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here, the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).



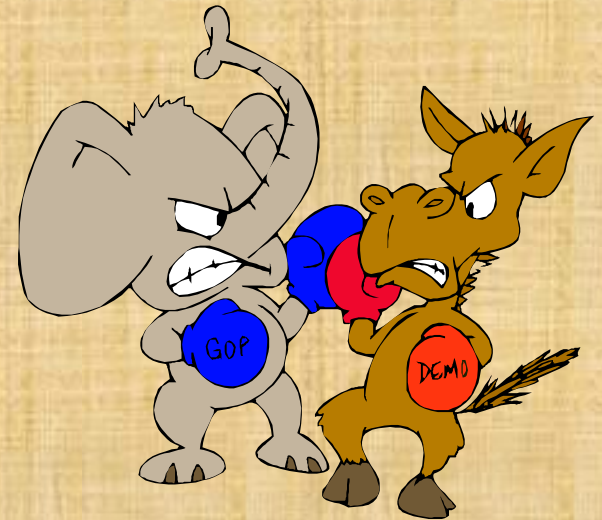
## 2. Rising Action

- This part of the story begins to develop the conflict(s). A building of interest or suspense occurs.



# Plot: Conflict

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story.  
Without conflict, there is no plot.



# Plot: Types of Conflict

Individual vs Individual



Individual vs Nature



Individual vs Society



Individual vs Self



Individual vs Universe



# Plot: Individual vs. Individual Conflict

**This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with another character, human or not human.**

*“The new one is the most beautiful of all; he is so young and pretty.” And the old swans bowed their heads before him.*

*Then he felt quite ashamed, and hid his head under his wing; for he did not know what to do, he was so happy, and yet not at all proud. He had been persecuted and despised for his ugliness, and now he heard them say he was the most beautiful of all the birds.*

*The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson

# Plot: Individual vs. Nature Conflict

**This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with the forces of nature, which serve as the antagonist.**

*A wave broke over his head, and he came up gagging and spitting salt water. He tried to lift himself, but his arms collapsed. Finally, using only his elbows, he squirmed and crawled his way over the slippery rocks and up onto the grassy ground above the tide line. There he lay spent and shivering, his body bruised, his cold skull throbbing in rhythm with his heartbeat.*

--Ben Mikaelson  
Touching Spirit Bear



# Plot: Individual vs. Society Conflict

**This type of conflict has the main character in conflict with a larger group: a community, society, culture, etc.**

*“I’m tired of living in a hole,” said Jenny.*

*“Let’s fight for freedom!” cried Bouncer. “We’ll be soldiers! Rough-riding Rowdies! I’ll be the general and commander-in-chief!”*

*The Island of the Skog by Steven Kellogg*

# Plot: Individual vs. Self Conflict

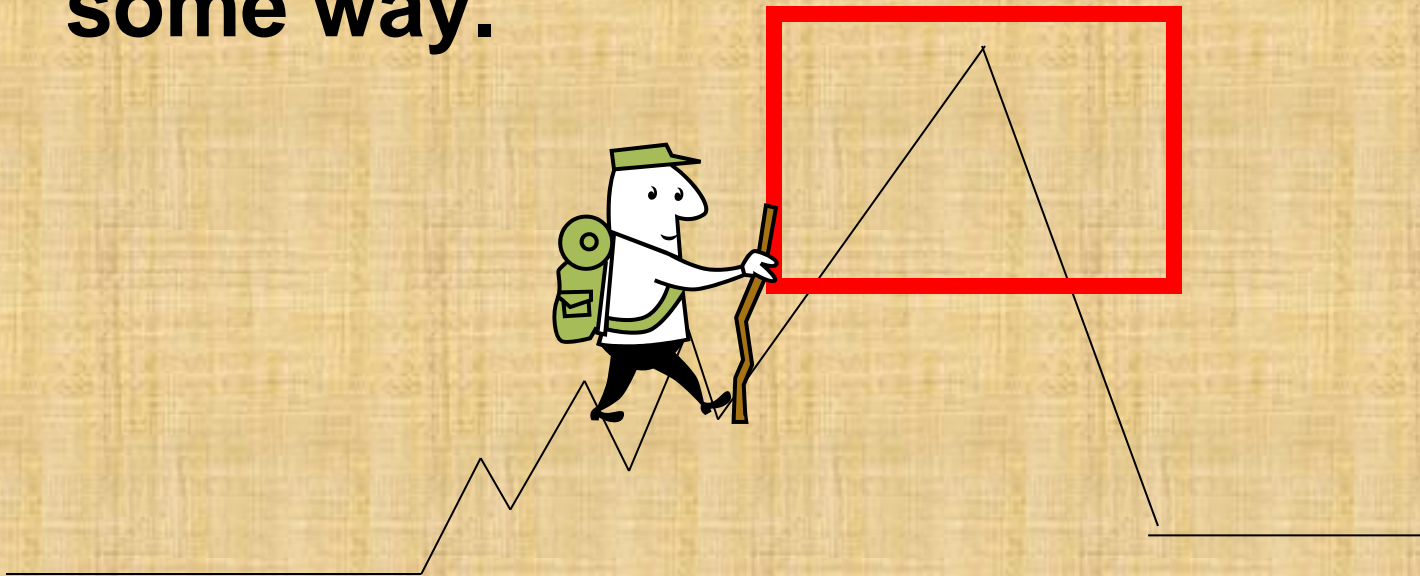
**In this type of conflict, the main character experiences some kind of inner conflict.**

*How strange it is that people of honest feelings and sensibility, who would not take advantage of a man born without arms or legs or eyes—how such people think nothing of abusing a man born with low intelligence. It infuriated me to think that not too long ago I, like this boy, had foolishly played the clown.*

--Daniel Keyes  
Flowers for Algernon

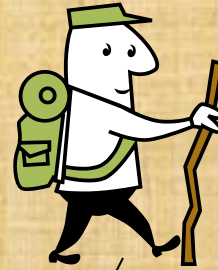
# 3. Climax

- **This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character, or conflict, will change in some way.**



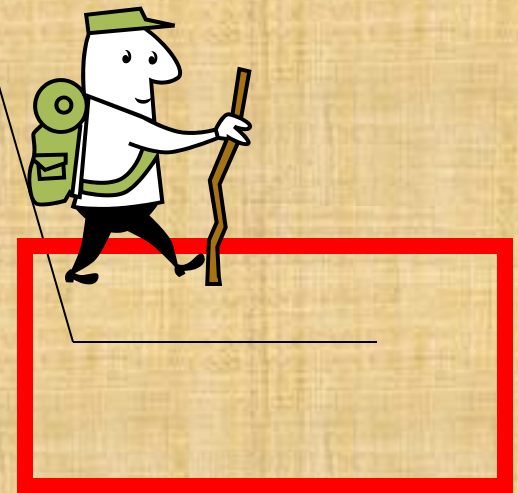
# 4. Falling Action

- All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict(s) and climax are taken care of.



# 5. Resolution

- The story comes to a reasonable ending.



# Plot Diagram



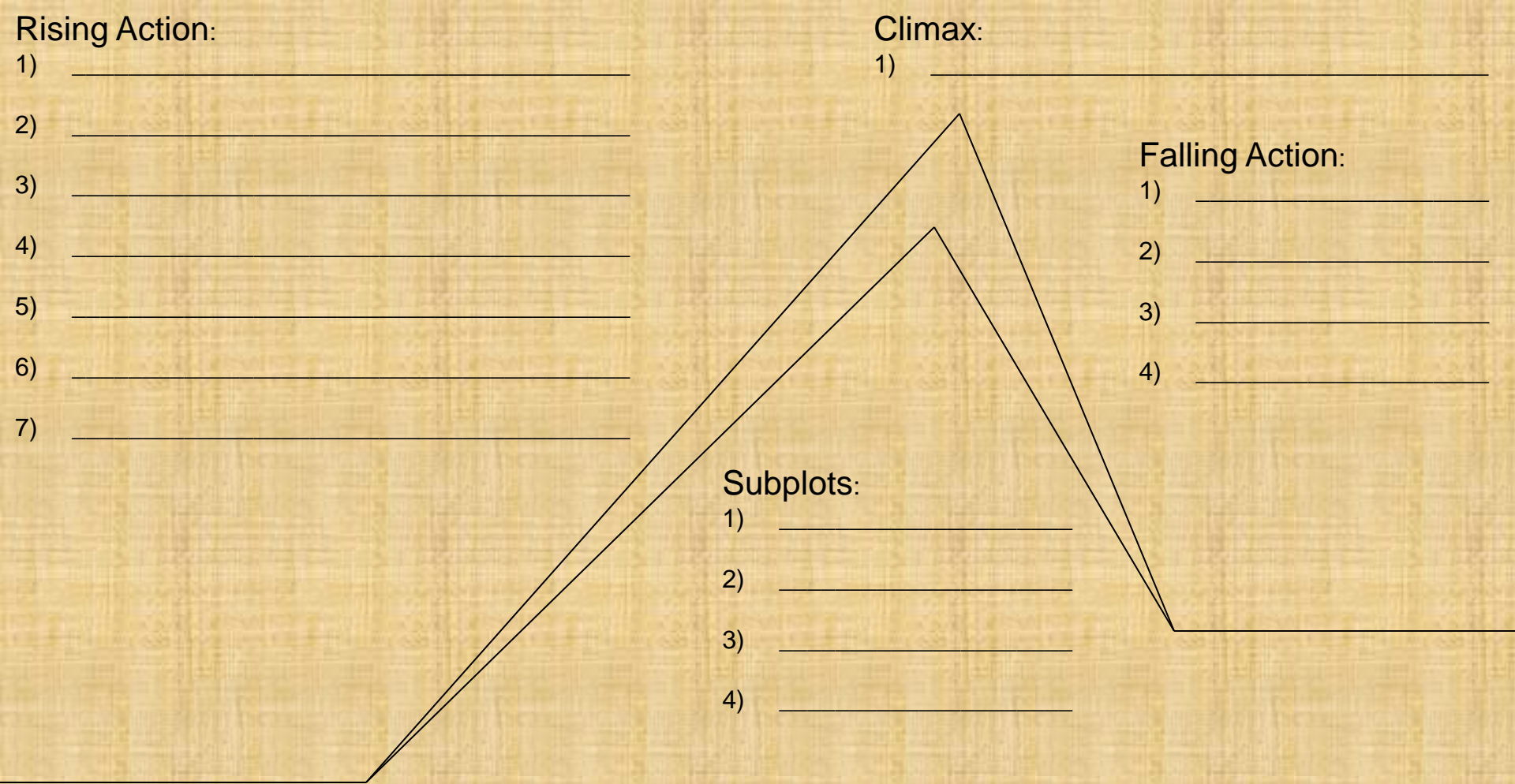
# What is subplot?

A subplot is a secondary story line that complicates or adds depth to the main plot.

What is an example of subplot from Flowers for Algernon?

Plot Diagram





**Rising Action:**

**Climax:**

**Falling Action:**

**Subplots:**

**Resolution:**

**Exposition:**

**Plot Diagram**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Character 1:
- Character 2:
- 2) Setting:
- 2) Conflict: