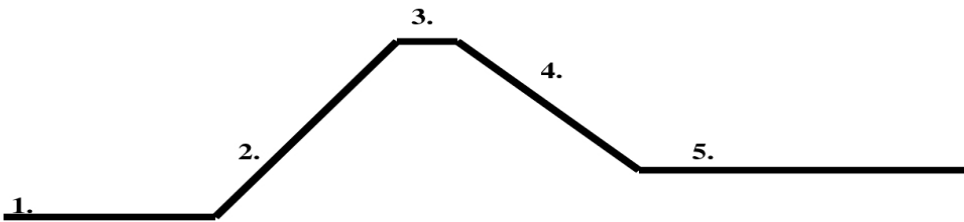


Plot Layout Worksheet- “the modified plot triangle”

Take a look at the diagram below. Most short and long fiction can be broken down to its basic plot elements, what happens in what order, and what do the characters do or how do they react? Using the key down below, think about a piece you are working on, or have been asked to start. “Chart out” the plot to your story before you begin!



key

1. Exposition: setting it up; introducing the characters; what’s the “problem”
2. Rising action: how does it build; how does it get worse? what does the antagonist or protagonist do?
3. The climax, or “turning point”: what brings it about? what’s the “final straw”: what’s the most important part of the story?
4. Falling action: how is everybody dealing with it; any final surprises or “twists”? Anything still need “fixed”?
5. The end, or the “anti-climax”: where are they all now? How have the characters changed or been changed? What’s the final “message,” if any?