

THE PILGRIM STORY: BASIC PLOT

Exposition	tells the problem, or conflict	Some people in seventeenth-century England are persecuted. They need to go somewhere safe.
Rising Action	main part of the story	In September 1620, some 102 people, along with their animals, furniture, and supplies needed for a new life, head for America aboard <i>Mayflower</i> over rough seas. On the grueling 65-day voyage, many people are sick, some die, and a baby is born.
Climax	turning point toward a solution to the problem	November 9: The crew spots land off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The ship heads south to Virginia, where Pilgrims have permission to settle. Bad weather and dangerously shallow water force the captain to turn back north.
Falling Action	events from the climax to the solution	November 11: The ship lands in Massachusetts. The Pilgrims come ashore to explore the area. They decide to settle in Plymouth, and live on the ship while building on shore.
Resolution	problem is solved	Early 1621: The Pilgrims move into their new homes in America at Plimouth Plantation.