

SPECIAL ED

# PLOT STRUCTURE UNIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Special Needs for Special Kids



*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves a good story. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

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In a separate files there are:

- lesson plan
- voice recorded PowerPoint
- Directions and links to digital activities

This unit contains over 150 pages of material along with google slides. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

# Plot Structure Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR, your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and add add one for the teacher to use in I Spy games

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. **Make your own copies of the activities:** Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards introduction</li> <li>• Circle map</li> </ul>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Matching activity</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Circle map</li> </ul>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards cut and past</li> <li>• Vocabulary puzzle</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards cut and past</li> <li>• Vocabulary puzzle</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Close worksheet</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Vocab cards activity</li> <li>• Labeling activity</li> </ul>		

The lesson plans contain:

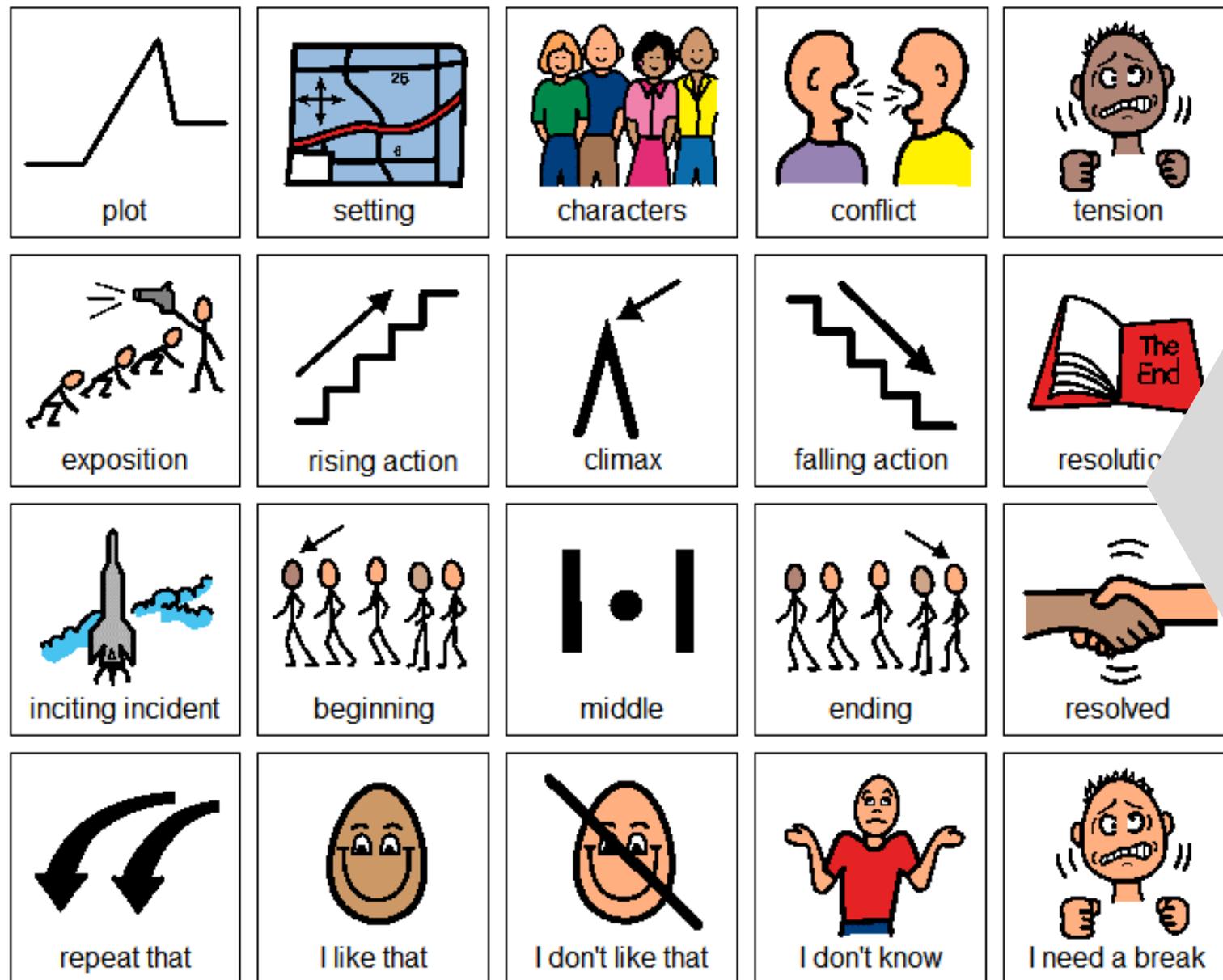
A quick look at what you will do each day

## Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li> <li>Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Book</li> <li>Vocabulary board</li> </ul>
Vocabulary cards I Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine how many cards your students can handle in front of them. This can vary, some students may be able to have all the cards, so may only be able to handle a field of 3-5</li> <li>Discuss relevant points on the card                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can also play this game in this manner having them find the symbol on their vocabulary board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary cards (student set and teacher set)</li> <li>Vocabulary board</li> </ul>
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the circle map completed yesterday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circle map completed yesterday</li> </ul>
Circle Map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do the circle map which looks at what makes a good plot</li> <li>Choose the best version (errorless or not) depending on the learning level of your students</li> <li>Students cut out symbols and place in circle map</li> <li>Make connections to the book as necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circle map</li> <li>Scissors</li> <li>Glue</li> </ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each student shares their circle map with the group using the communication method of their choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed circle maps</li> <li>Communication devices</li> </ul>

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run



This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

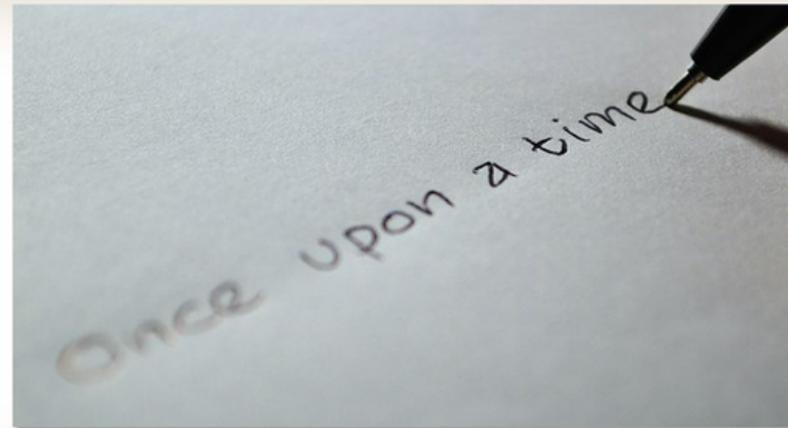
Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

Most authors will refer to this as the **plot structure**. Here is what it looks like. We will talk about each element and why it is important.



The exposition is how the story starts off. Usually the author will introduce the characters and the main **setting** of the story.



There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 35 pages and goes through each element of plot structure.

It comes in a pdf version as well as a voice-recorded PowerPoint (so you don't have to print it out.)

## author

The person who writes the story.



## plot

Chain of events the entice the reader, builds tension, and provides a resolution.



## exposition

Beginning of the story. Introduces main characters, setting, and conflict.



## setting

When and where the story takes place.



## conflict

Clash or disagreement between 2 or more characters in the story.



## rising action

Longest part of the story. Where rises and excitement grows.



## inciting incident

The moment that sets the story into action.



## climax

Most important part of the story when the characters must make a choice that will affect the rest of the story.



There are 11 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

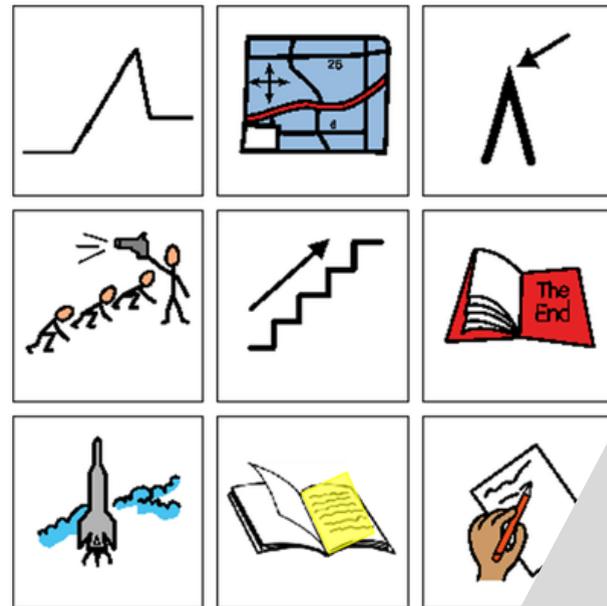
## author

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## setting

When and where the story takes place.



## conflict



## rising action



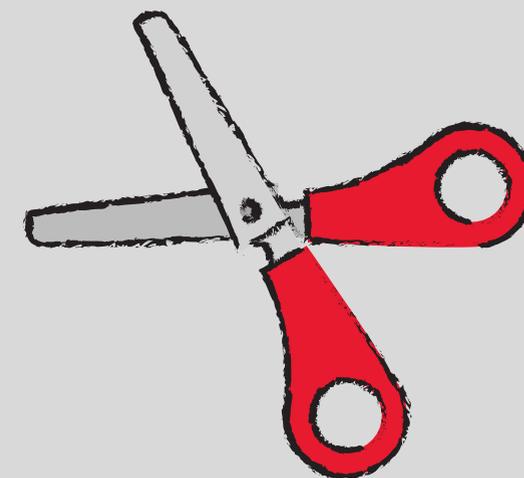
## inciting incident



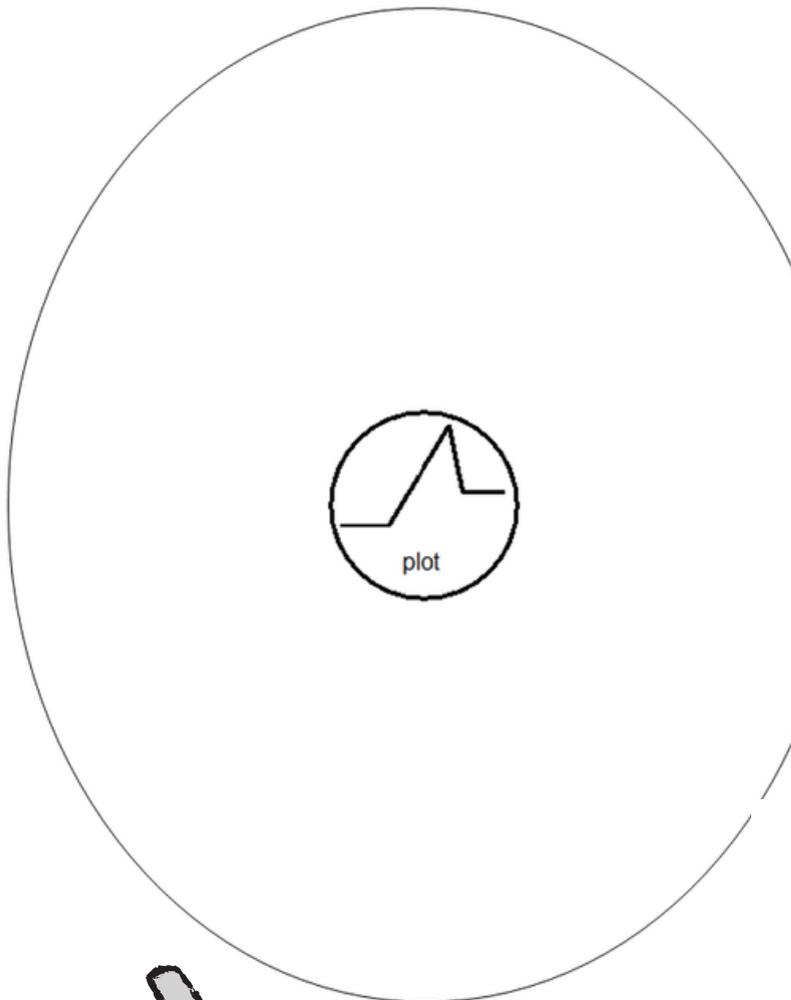
## climax



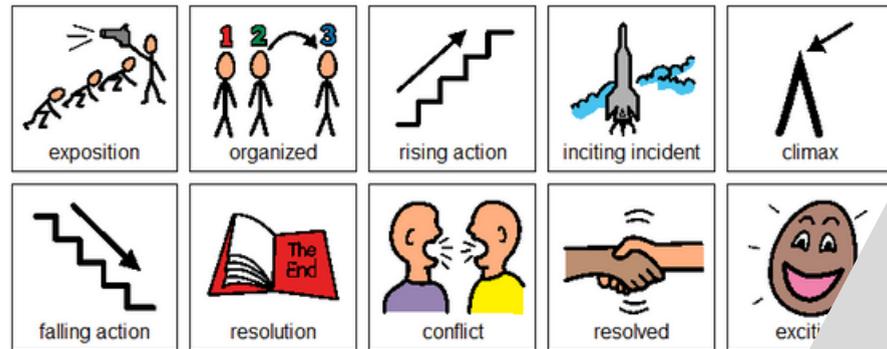
On days 10&11 there is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).



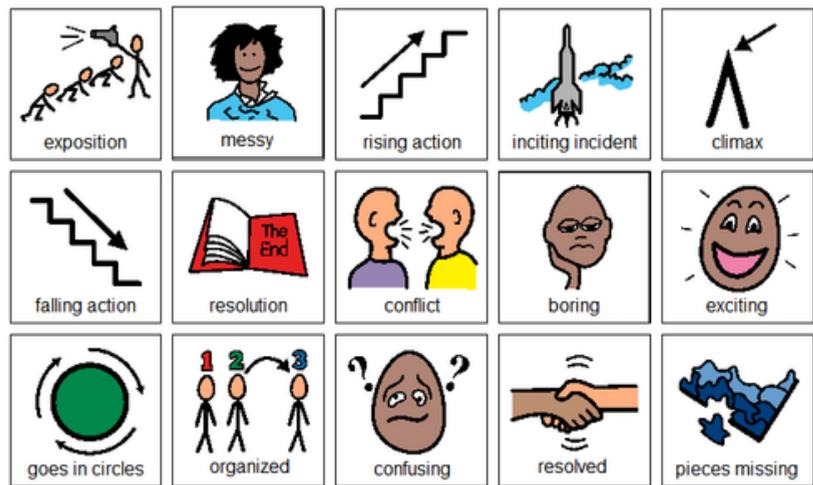
Most important part of the story when the characters must make a choice that will affect the rest of the story.	
Chain of events that entice the reader, builds tension, and provides a resolution.	The
The tension is released, and things are starting to wind down in the story.	The pers
Longest part of the story. When tension rises and excitement grows.	The story come back
Short section sometimes at the end of the book that wraps everything up.	Beginning of the st main characters, settin
Clash or disagreement between 2 or more characters in the story.	



Cut apart pictures and place in circle map about what makes a good plot.



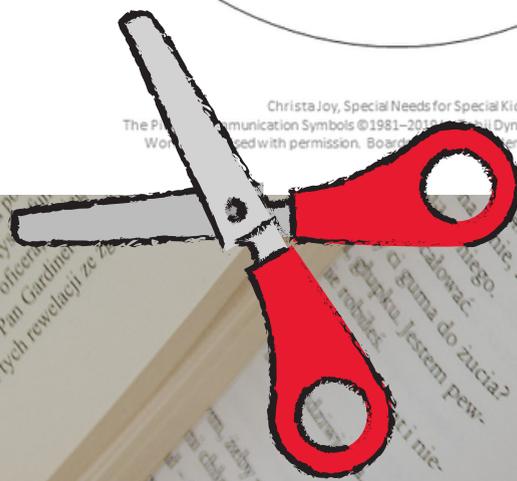
Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they are important in making a good plot.



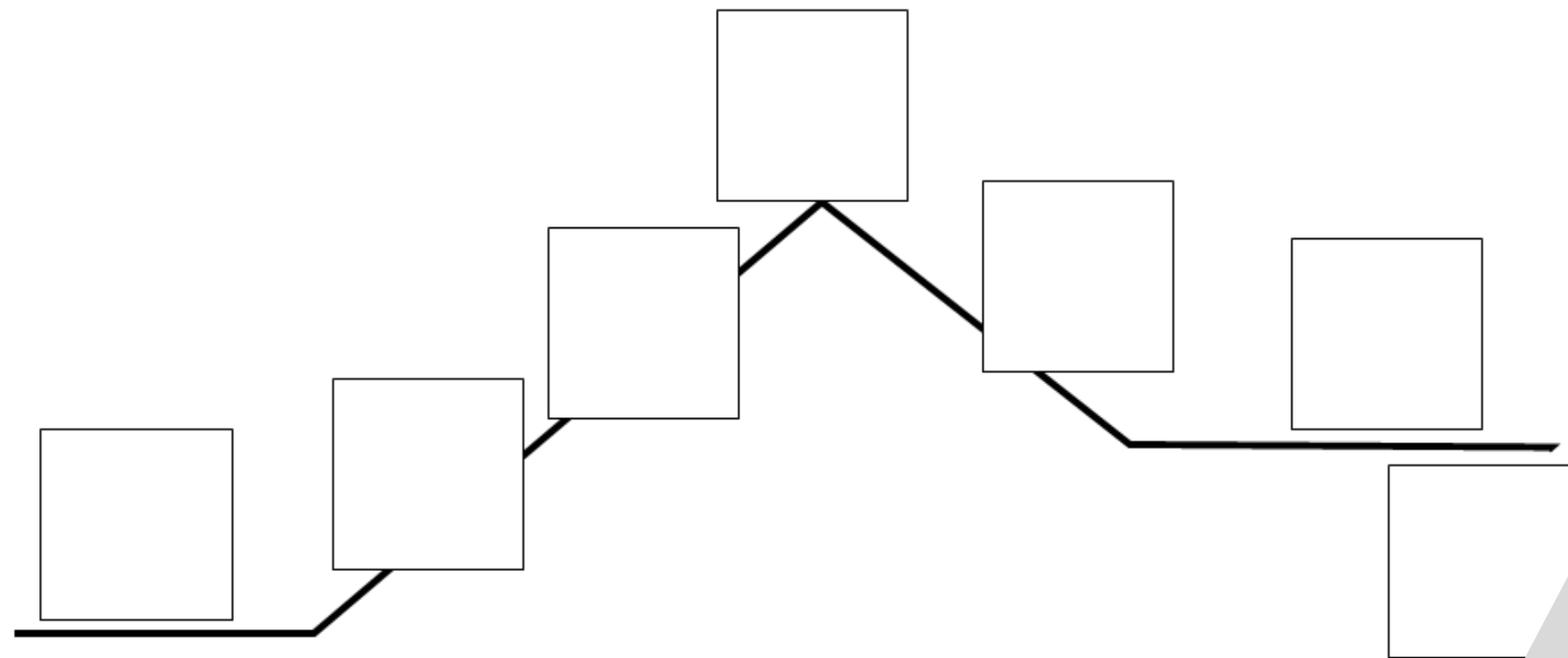
There are 2 circle maps, one is on what makes a good story and one is on what makes a good plot.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

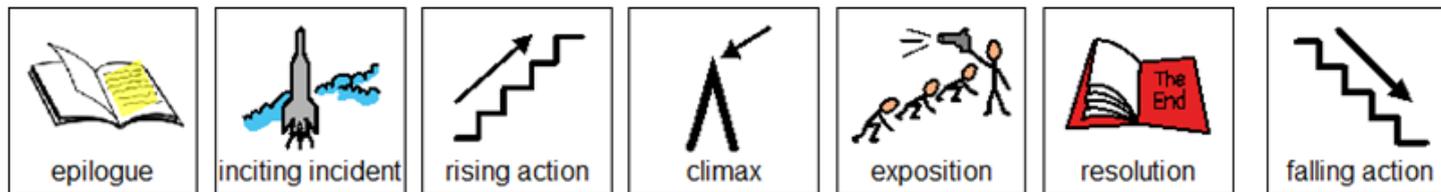


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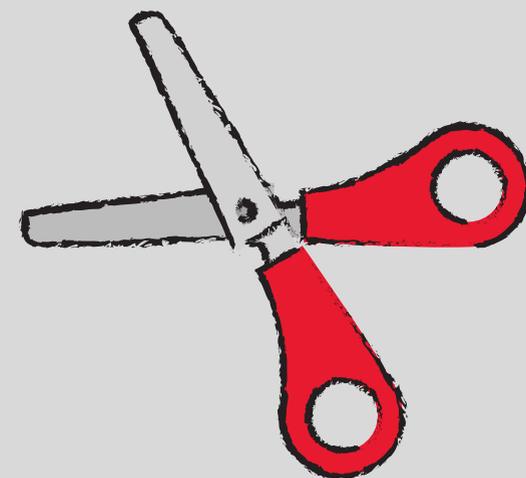
There is a labeling activity where students will label the elements of a plot on a diagram.

Label the parts of the plot structure.

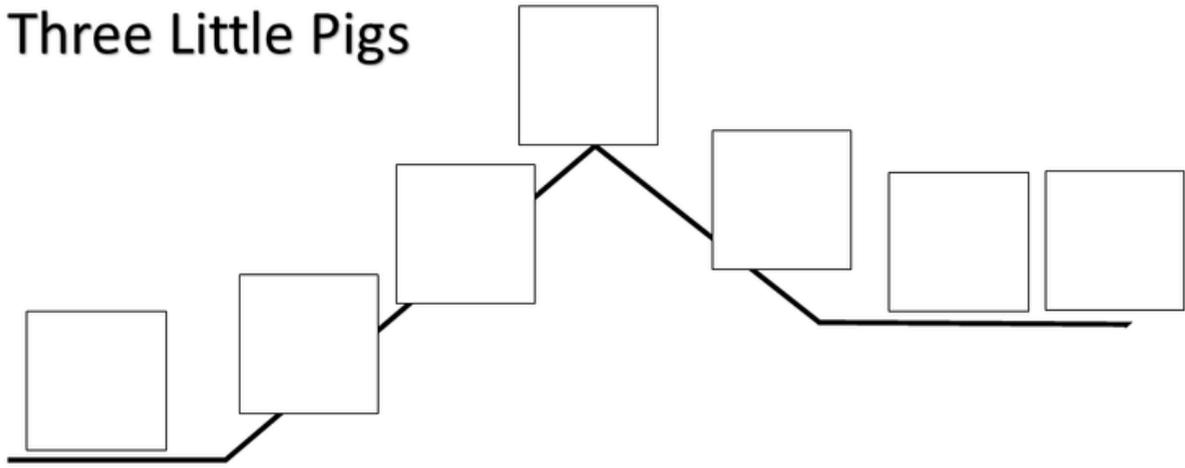


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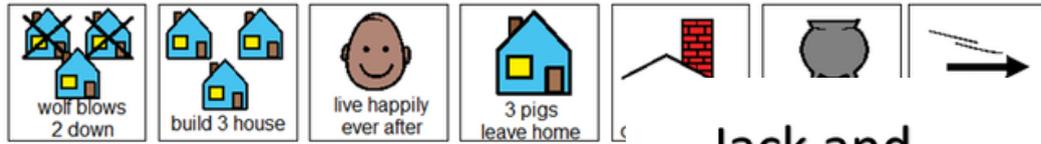
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# Three Little Pigs

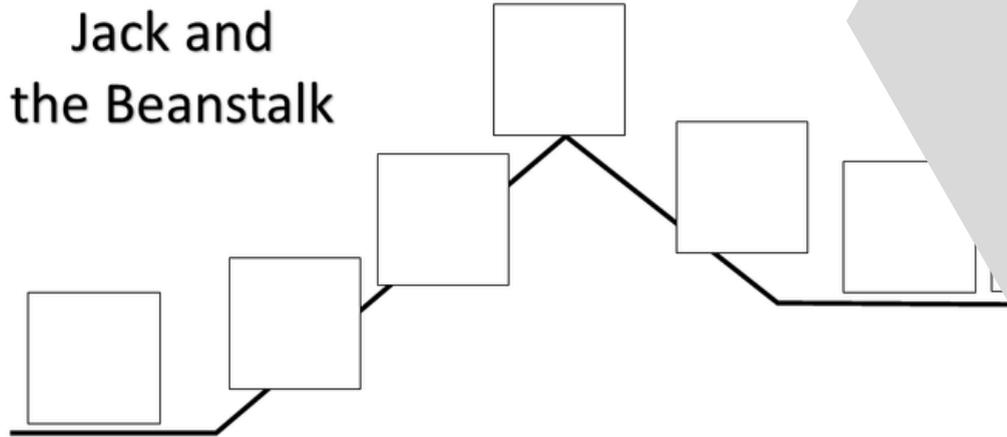


Place the following events in the correct location on the plot diagram.

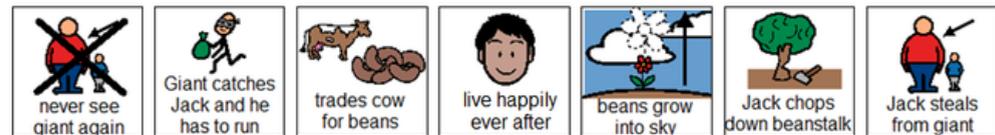


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# Jack and the Beanstalk

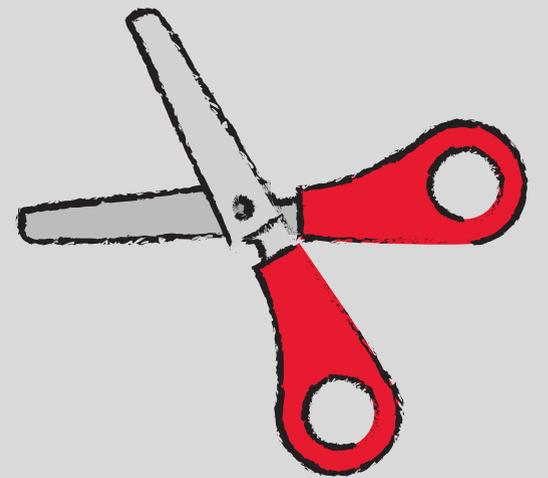


Place the following events in the correct location on the plot diagram.

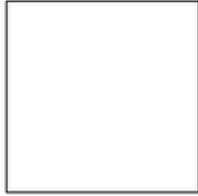
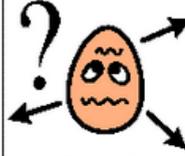
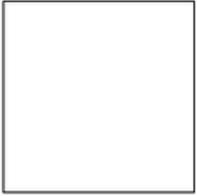
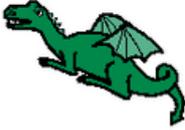
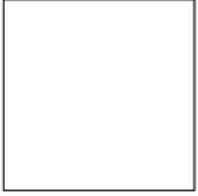
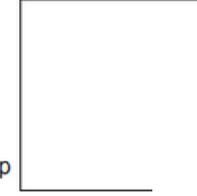
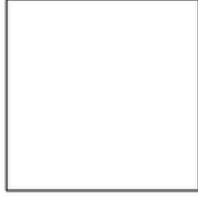
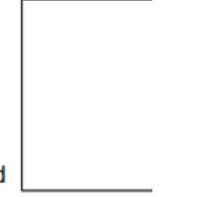


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There are 4 more activities where students label the plot diagram using elements from common fairy tales..



Look at the resolutions on the next page and match them with the conflicts below.

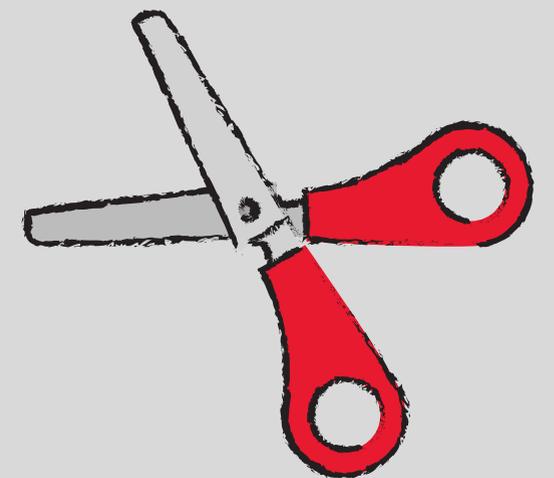
 sad and lonely		 I'm lost	
 someone stole my diamond ring		 My puppy is missing	
 a dragon shows up		 princess is locked up	
 a virus spreads		 too poor to buy food	

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Match the following resolutions with the conflicts on the previous page.

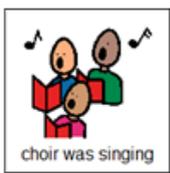
 find a magic map that leads you home	 a new vaccine is found	 find a new best friend	 thief is arrested
 win the lottery	 puppy is found	 prince rescues the princess	 knight slays the dragon

There are 2 matching activities where students will find the resolution to common conflicts found in stories and movies.

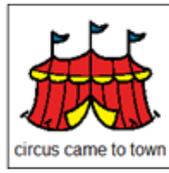
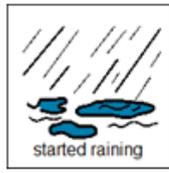


**Read each conflict below and circle the best resolution.**

1. There was a big storm brewing, and we were way out in our sailboat.



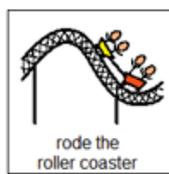
2. The drought was so bad we were going to lose our entire crop of corn.



3. We got lost down a dark street.



4. I lost favorite necklace at the park.



5. There was a weird noise coming from the basement.



One of the matching activities is cut and paste, and this one students are given 3 resolutions, and they circle the best one.

# Plot Structure

resolution	climax	rising action	exposition
rising action			climax
resolution	plot	falling action	
	rising action	climax	resolution
exposition	falling action	plot	
plot	climax	resolution	exposition

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# Plot structure

	climax	inciting incident	
plot			
inciting incident	epilogue	plot	climax
		epilogue	

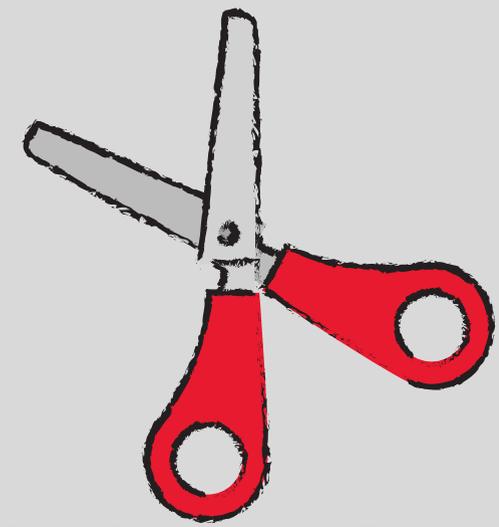
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Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

plot	plot	climax	climax
inciting incident	inciting incident	epilogue	epilogue

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.



# Plot Structure

y l w x w z l w x b w u a l h j r l e l  
m y u v j i i i d c o n f l i c t j c a  
n c j y b h x i y t q o t u m s v x a r  
k g s o r l b z n u j c w p x k p w v e  
s i n c i t i n g i n c i d e n t v z s  
e p r f n v o d q t l g u w f b l d w o  
t v i t a s c l d l s d w r w u g k n l  
t r s j g x a y e d v p x d b k n a w u  
i d i h c l v u b r a b u i i y y o m t  
n c n m u b r p j e x p o s i t i o n i  
g k g p g e t y h d u b e f l k q f e o  
j n a v n x x g l e z m r a g x v w p n  
k v c n z q q y a k u t y y b e j k i t  
w d t e w f q h m w s m k z v p r b l m  
f m i q f z d h t a h j e i c q v k o j  
b r o m c y p v h g z w j g x i e w g o  
g j n o b y s u w j c b l x y b z z u i  
e f a l l i n g a c t i o n w t d t e y  
m h m k i q s a r c l i m a x t i q h f  
b u x i y b k w b a r e o y x o p y o s

- inciting incident
- resolution
- setting
- falling action
- conflict
- rising action
- climax
- exposition
- epilogue

# Plot Structure

y l w x w z l w x b w u a l h j r l e l  
m y u v j i i i d c o n f l i c t j c a  
n c j y b h x i y t q o t u m s v x a r  
k g s o r l b z n u j c w p x k p w v e  
s i n c i t i n g i n c i d e n t v z s  
e p r f n v o d q t l g u w f b l d w o  
t v i t a s c l d l s d w r w u g k n l  
t r s j g x a y e d v p x d b k n a w u  
i d i h c l v u b r a b u i i y y o m t  
n c n m u b r p j e x p o s i t i o n i  
g k g p g e t y h d u b e f l k q f e o  
j n a v n x x g l e z m r a g x v w p n  
k v c n z q q y a k u t y y b e j k i t  
w d t e w f q h m w s m k z v p r b l m  
f m i q f z d h t a h j e i c q v k o j  
b r o m c y p v h g z w j g x i e w g o  
g j n o b y s u w j c b l x y b z z u i  
e f a l l i n g a c t i o n w t d t e y  
m h m k i q s a r c l i m a x t i q h f  
b u x i y b k w b a r e o y x o p y o s

- inciting incident
- resolution
- setting
- falling action
- conflict
- rising action
- climax
- exposition
- epilogue

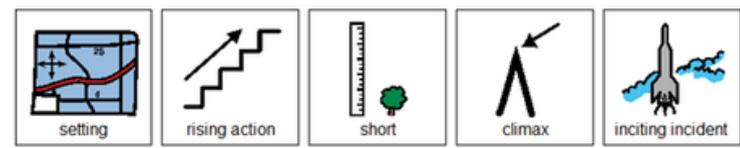
There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.

### Plot Structure

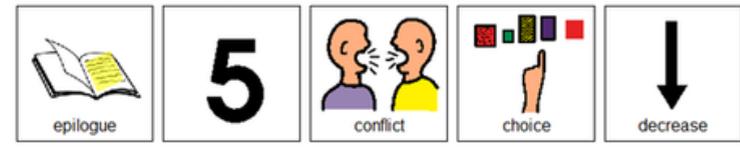
1. In the exposition, the characters and the  are introduced.
2. The exposition is normally .
3. The longest part of the plot is normally the .
4. The  is what sets the story in motion.
5. The  is the most important part of the plot.

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#### Plot structure (page 1)



#### Plot structure (page 2)



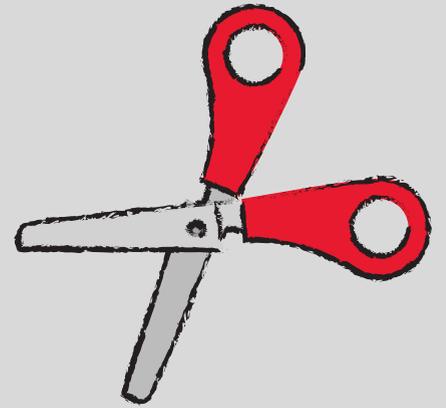
### Plot structure

6. The climax is when the main characters must make a .
  7. Tensions start to  during the falling action.
  8. The  is resolved during the resolution.
  9. Sometimes an author will write an  at the end of a story to wrap things up.
- are the  main elements to a good plot.

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Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. There are two worksheets (5 questions) that covers plot structure.

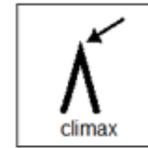
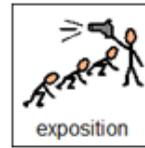
Answer key included.



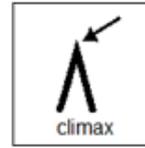
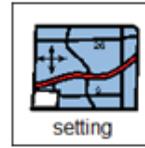
1. How many elements are there to a good plot?



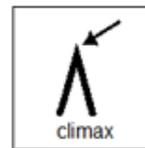
2. Which plot element is also known as the introduction?



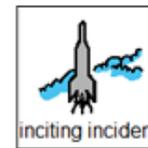
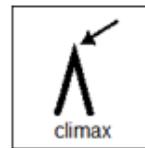
3. What is the most important part of the plot?



4. Which element is typically the longest?



5. What starts the story in motion?

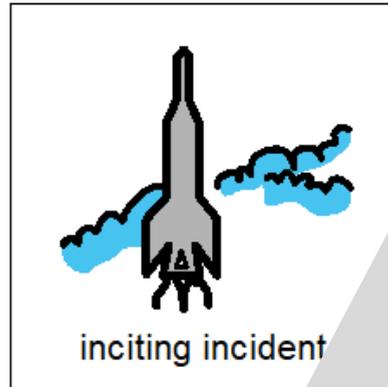
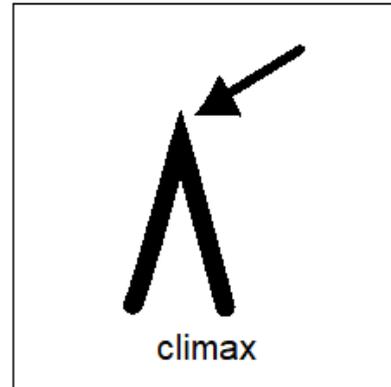
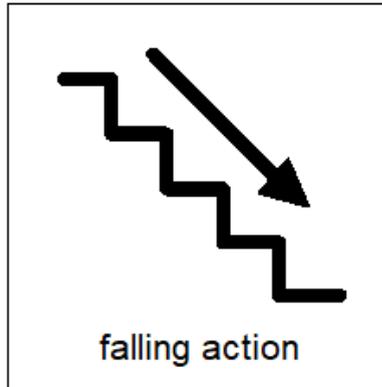


FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

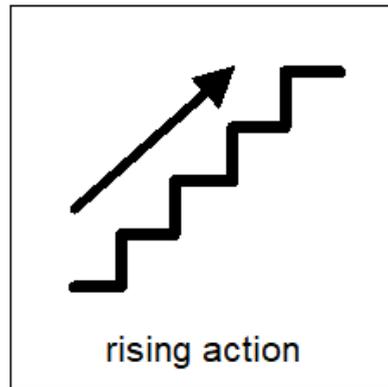
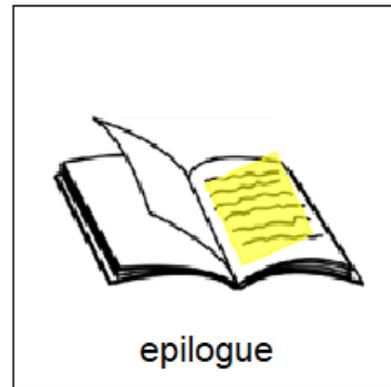
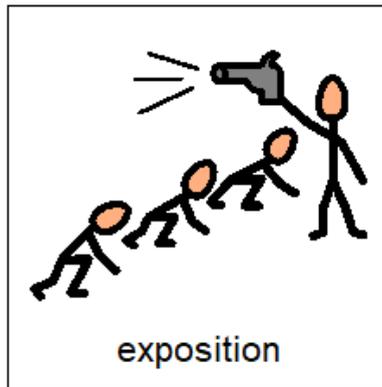
Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 7



Q 8



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. How many elements are there to a good plot?
  - A. 1
  - B. 10
  - C. 5
2. Which plot element is also known as the introduction?
  - A. Exposition
  - B. Climax
  - C. resolution
3. What is the most important part of the plot?
  - A. Setting
  - B. Falling action
  - C. climax
4. Which element is typically the longest?
  - A. Resolution
  - B. Rising action
  - C. climax
5. What starts the story in motion?
  - A. Climax
  - B. Inciting incident
  - C. Epilogue
6. Circle all the things typically introduced in the exposition:

A. Climax	D. Resolution
B. Setting	E. Author
C. Characters	F. conflict

This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.

Watch the movie  
about Plot  
Structure

Finally, sometimes the author wants the story to continue into another book. In that case, the resolution may hint or even introduce a new problem!!

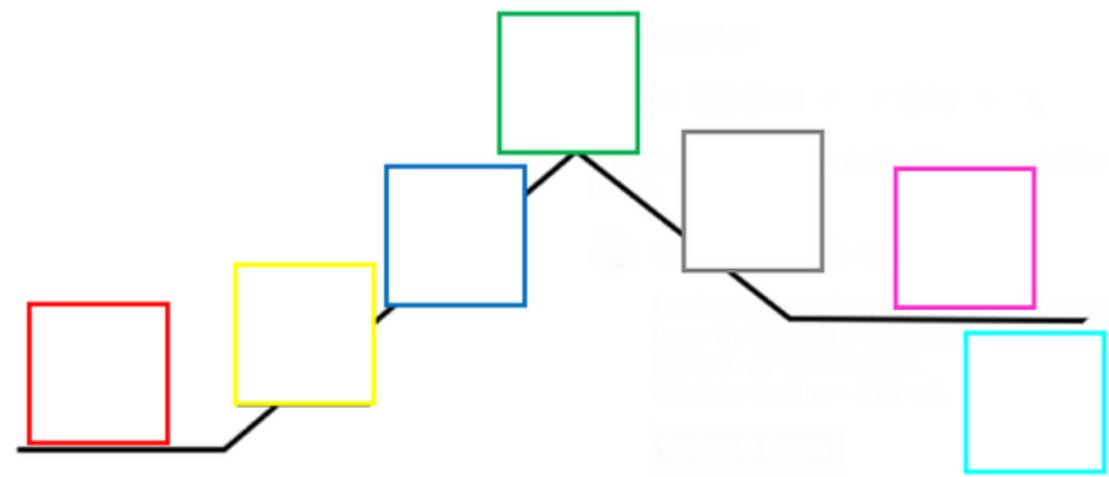


This unit also has 46 google slides. This includes a movie version of the book, and 4 YouTube videos to cover the fairy tales used in this unit.

 Sad and lonely		 I'm lost	
 Someone stole my ring		 My puppy is missing	
 A dragon shows up		 Princess is locked up	
 A virus spreads			

Match the following resolutions with the conflict.

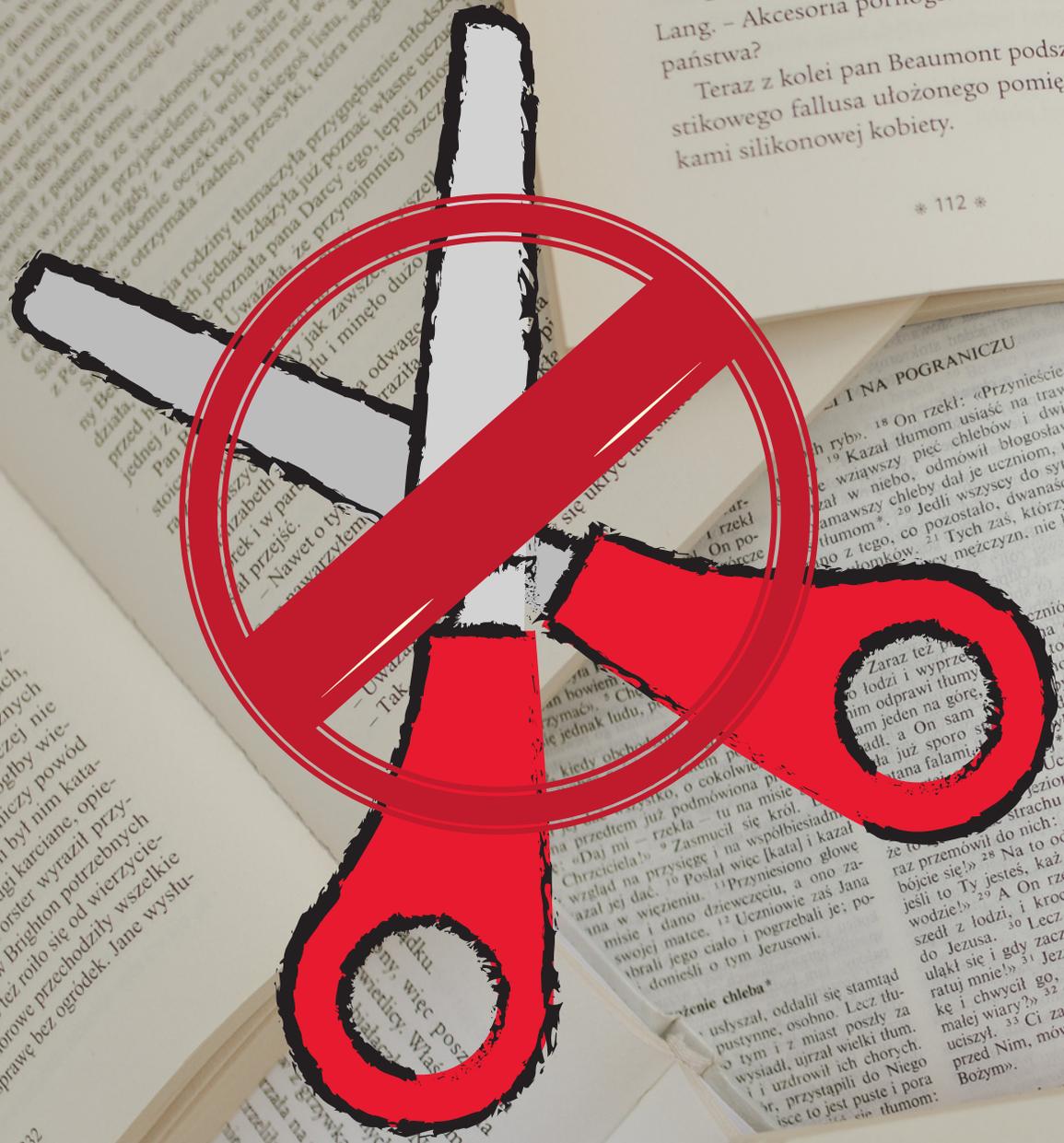
 find a magic map that leads you home	 a new vaccine is found	 find a new best friend
 thief is arrested	 win the lottery	 puppy is found
 prince rescues the princess	 knight slays the dragon	



Label the parts of the plot structure.

 epilogue	 falling action	 climax	 rising action	 resolution	 inciting incident	 exposition
---	---	--	--	---	--	---

There are 2 sets of slides (23 in each set). The second set is differentiated using color. They have students click and drag pictures to manipulate.



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

All of the activities (except the book) come in color and black and white.

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**