Name:	Date:	Period: _	

Story Plot Terms

Climax

This is the highest point of interest or drama in the story. The suspense is at its peak, but the outcome is still unclear.

Rising Action

As the story progresses, complications and problems arise for the main character. These difficulties create suspense.

Falling Action

The tension has been relieved. The conflict is resolved and characters' lives return to normal. Note that the terms Falling Action and Denouement are often combined. In this case, all events after the Climax fall under Denouement.

Introduction

Also called the exposition, the reader is introduced to the characters, setting, and background information.

Denouement

Also called the resolution, the denouement is the final resolution of the main complication. The term denouement applies only to stories with happy endings. Tragic endings are termed catastrophe.