

Friday

Name LOZ

LitWits Workshops

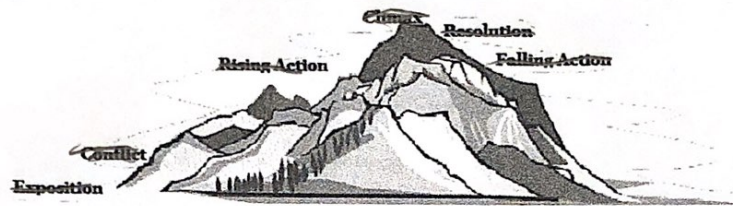
The Witch of Blackbird Pond | Elizabeth Speare

STORYLINES

The Narrative Arc

The plot is what happens in the story, and those things happen in a certain order to keep readers interested and entertained. That order, with its rising, cresting,

and dropping levels of excitement, is called the narrative arc. We'll talk about the different points on the arc and how they help the story move along.



Now let's look at some of the important scenes in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and note where they belong on the narrative arc. It's fine to abbreviate – for instance, you may write "RA" for Rising Action.

✓ Rising action

Kit jumps in the water to save a little girl's doll, and is called a witch – an accusation that will haunt her for a whole year.

✓ Resolution

Kit sneaks out to save Hannah from a mob, and hands her over to Nat.

✓ Conflict

In 1687 a brigantine approaches Saybrook Harbor, Connecticut, bearing 16-year-old Kit Tyler.

✓ Climax

Kit is declared innocent, and Goodman Cruff promises to stick up for his daughter and send her to school. Goodwife Cruff is chastised for making slanderous accusations.

✓ Falling action

Kit meets her relatives, is courted by William, befriends the Quaker outcast Hannah Tupper, and gets in trouble; Connecticut's charter "disappears," and Mercy becomes deathly ill!

✓ Exposition

Kit breaks off the near-engagement with William, John comes home to Mercy, Judith and William get married in a double wedding, Kit decides to go back to Barbados and realizes she's in love with Nat.