Story Structure

Lesson 1

We will use “When Gertrude Grew Great” as an example.
Plot

Things that happen in the story.

Example

Gertrude talks to her teacher.
Gertrude has a dream.
Setting

**When** and **where** the story takes place.

**Example**

At a middle school in the present day.
10 years into the future.
Conflict

The problem in the story.

Example

Gertrude does just enough to get by.
Narrative Structure

- Most stories can be broken into four parts.
- Identifying the turning point is the key.
Climax

The turning point of the story.

Many climaxes have the main character…

• learn a lesson
• change

Example

Gertrude dreams of the future.
Rising Action

Things that happen before the climax.

Example
Gertrude gets ‘C’ s.
Gertrude talks with her teacher.
Falling Action

Things that happen after the climax.

Example

Gertrude tries harder.
Gertrude becomes great.
Resolution

How the story ends.

Example

Gertrude gets a job and her own place.
Narrative Structure

- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action
- Resolution

Story
Tips for Identifying

- Everything revolves around the climax.
- Climax is not always the most exciting part of the story.