

# **Story** Structure

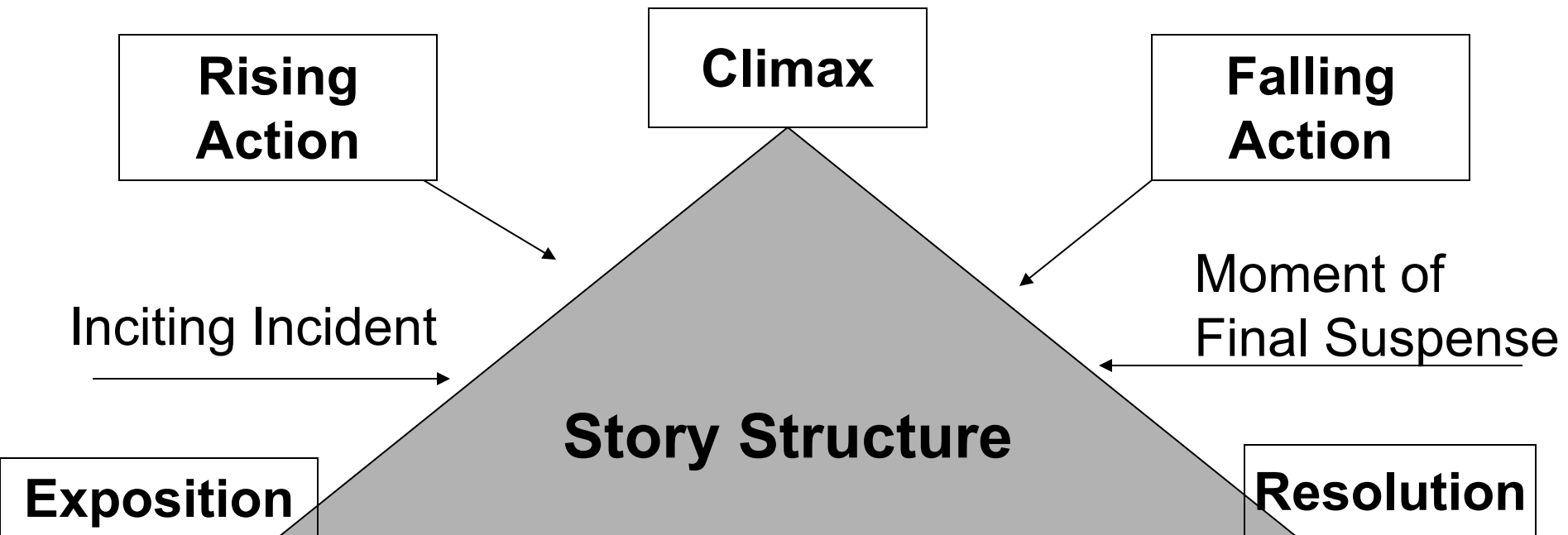
## **Parts of the Story**

# What is **Story** Structure?

Most **stories** follow a pattern.

We will study the most common pattern.

This is a way of identifying **parts of a story**.



# Elements of a **Story**

**Setting:** time and place of story.

**Conflict:** problem in the story.

**Plot:** events surrounding the conflict.

# Exposition

**Events before the plot is set in motion.**

- Characters and setting are introduced
- **Exposition** ends when the **conflict** begins.

## Example

Justin has a promising future as an athlete.

# **Inciting** Incident

**When the conflict is introduced.**

- The **inciting incident** sets the plot in motion.

## **Example**

Justin injures himself.

# Rising Action

**Events leading up to the climax.**

After the inciting incident and before the climax.

## **Examples**

- Justin sits in bed all day.
- He eats too much
- He watches too much TV.

# Climax

**The turning point in the story.**

- Main character may learn something new
- A change takes place
- Now the conflict can be addressed.

## Example

Justin's sister motivates him.

# **Falling** Action

**Events after the climax.**

Events leading toward the resolution.

## **Examples**

Justin learned to study with his sister.

He passed his classes.

He got his GPA up.



# Moment of **Final** Suspense

**The main character is tested one last time.**

- Not every story has this.
- May be the most exciting moment.

## **Example**

Justin has to score well on the ACT.

# Resolution

**Events after the conflict is resolved.**

How the story ends.

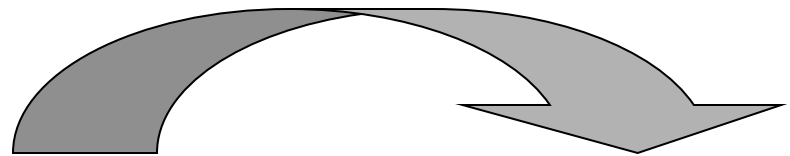
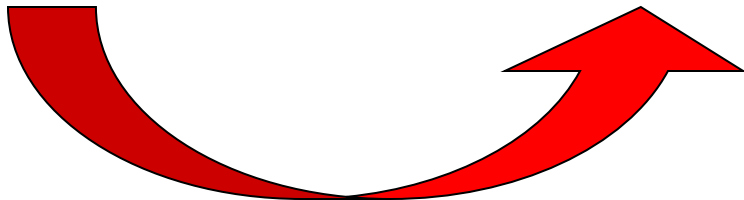
## Example

Justin goes to college in Hawaii.

# Tips for **Identifying**

1. First, identify the climax
2. The climax usually isn't the most exciting part of the story.
3. Watch for a shift in the mood of the story:

**Things go from bad to good or from good to bad.**



# Review

Not every story follows this pattern, but most do.

