POWERPOINT PRESENTION # 3 (For Eighth Grade)

PLOT

- All fiction is based on conflict and this conflict is presented in a structured format called **PLOT.**

- This "structure" includes all the elements in a story. The final objective is to see the story as a whole and to become aware of how the parts are put together to produce a unified effect.

- Plot, simply put is the sequence of events which involves the characters in conflict.

Most plots have certain common elements. These are:

- Introduction or Exposition

- Complication
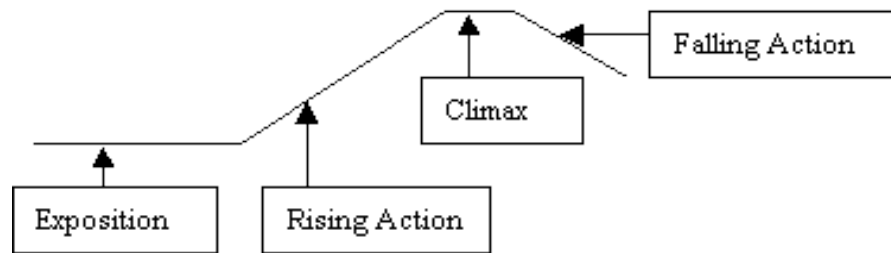
- Climax

- Resolution or Outcome

Plot Elements

- A story commonly begins with **exposition**, an explanation of the situation and the condition of the characters.

- A plot usually begins with a problem which the protagonist must meet or solve. During the story, tension is built through a series of **complications**, incidents which either help or hinder the protagonist in finding a solution.

- The **climax** is the peak or turning point of the action; at this point we know the outcome.

- The **denouement** or **falling action** is the part after the climax. It gives any necessary explanation and will usually end with the **resolution**, a sense at the end of the story that it is complete.

The Ending of the Story

- It may be either open or closed:

- In a **closed ending**, the most usual one in children's books, readers feel that they know what will happen. The various parts of the plot are tied together satisfactorily, and the reader feels a sense of completion.

- In an **open ending**, readers must draw their own conclusions; they do not know what will happen.

- The main parts of a narrative or story can be shown with a **plot map** that looks something like this...

Practice exercise

- Think in a favorite movie you've seen or book you've read recently and draw a plot map like the one below. You have 10 minutes before sharing the map with the rest of the group.

Recap

- **Plot** is the plan of events or the main story in a fictional work of prose or a drama. It is usually the most important element.

References for additional study...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot_(narrative)

http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba/literary_elements.htm

http://www.hhs.helena.k12.mt.us/students/OlsonJan/hannah/tsld002.htm