

The Story Architect: Building a Narrative

Learning objective: To understand and apply the key components of a story structure, including setting, character motivation, and plot development.

Max the monkey has been busy calculating the perfect story structure! Below are the essential 'building blocks' of a great narrative. Your task is to sort these story elements into the correct stage of the plot journey. Use the word bank to help you identify the technical terms for each section of a story.

Word bank: Opening · Build-up · Climax · Resolution · Ending · Character Motivation · Setting · Problem

1. 1. Which story stage involves introducing the main characters, the setting, and a hint of the atmosphere? Explain why this is important for the reader. (2 marks)

2. 2. Max wants to introduce a 'Problem' to his story. At which stage of the narrative arc should this usually appear to create tension? (2 marks)

3. 3. What is the 'Climax' of a story, and why is it considered the most exciting part for the reader? (2 marks)

4. 4. If a story ends without a 'Resolution', how might a reader feel? Use the word 'unresolved' in your answer. (2 marks)

5. 5. Think of a short story idea. Describe the 'Character Motivation' for your protagonist. What is it that they want to achieve? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Story Mountain' diagram. Label the five stages: Opening, Build-up, Climax, Resolution, and Ending. Add a small sketch of Max the monkey at the peak of the mountain pointing at the Climax!



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) describing a mysterious setting for a story. Use at least two expanded noun phrases and one simile to make your description vivid for the reader.