

The Narrative Architect's Workshop

Learning objective: To structure a compelling short story by identifying and applying the five essential components of a narrative arc.

Max the monkey is trying to solve the 'puzzle' of story writing. To build a great tale, you need a strong structure. Use the vocabulary in the word bank to sequence the five stages of a narrative arc. For each stage, write a sentence explaining how the story changes for the reader.

Word bank: Exposition · Rising Action · Climax · Falling Action · Resolution

1. 1. Explain why the 'Exposition' is vital for the reader. What information must be established here? (2 marks)

2. 2. Compare and contrast 'Rising Action' and 'Falling Action'. How does the tension differ in these two stages? (2 marks)

3. 3. The 'Climax' is often described as the turning point. Justify why a story would feel incomplete if the climax were removed. (2 marks)

4. 4. What might happen if a writer skipped the 'Resolution'? How would this impact the reader's final emotional response? (2 marks)

5. 5. If you were writing a story about a lost treasure, describe one specific event that would fit into the 'Rising Action' phase. (2 marks)

6. 6. Imagine a story where the characters reach the Climax, but the problem is solved immediately without any Falling Action. Explain why this might feel unsatisfying to the audience. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Story Mountain' diagram. Label the five stages (Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution) along the slope of the mountain and add a small sketch at the peak to represent the most exciting moment of a story you have imagined.



Extension challenge: Choose a favourite book or film and map its plot onto a story mountain. Then, write a one-paragraph 'alternative ending' that changes the Resolution while keeping the characters' personalities consistent. Explain how your new ending shifts the theme of the story.