

The Narrative Architect's Workshop with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and apply the structural components of a narrative, including character motivation, complex settings, and the development of a plot arc.

Leo the Lion is writing a grand epic and needs your help to build the foundations. Use the provided word bank to label the stages of a narrative arc for a story about a hidden map found in an ancient library. Then, respond to the higher-order thinking questions to refine the plot's depth and characterisation.

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

1. Using the word bank, map out the structure of a story where a character finds a mysterious map. Explain why the 'Inciting Incident' is essential for moving the plot forward. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the 'Climax' of a story with the 'Falling Action'. How does the tension shift during these stages? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If a story skipped the 'Rising Action' and went straight from the 'Inciting Incident' to the 'Climax', what might happen to the reader's engagement with the characters? (3 marks)

4. Create a motivation for a protagonist who finds a map. Why are they searching for the destination, and what personal cost might they face? (3 marks)

5. Explain why an author might choose to end a story with an ambiguous 'Resolution' rather than a clear, happy ending. How does this affect the reader? (3 marks)

6. If the setting of your story was a bustling, futuristic city market instead of an ancient library, how would that change the 'Rising Action'? Provide two specific examples. (3 marks)

Draw: Sketch a visual representation of a 'Narrative Mountain'. Label the peaks and valleys with your story elements, ensuring the visual height of the arc matches the intensity of the scene.



Extension challenge: Write a 200-word opening paragraph for your story. You must include a description of the setting that uses at least three pieces of sensory language (sight, sound, or smell) to establish the atmosphere before the map is discovered.