

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Story Elements Pre-Knowledge Worksheet

**SETTING** – when and where the story takes place

Setting can include:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFLICT** – struggle between two opposing forces or characters in a story that triggers action; can be internal or external; there are two forms of conflict:

***External Conflict:***

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***Internal Conflict:***

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There are four (4) main types of conflict:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Other forms of conflict can include Person vs. Fate or God, Person vs. Supernatural, or Person vs. Technology.

**PLOT** – sequence (or order) of events in a story (beginning, middle, end)

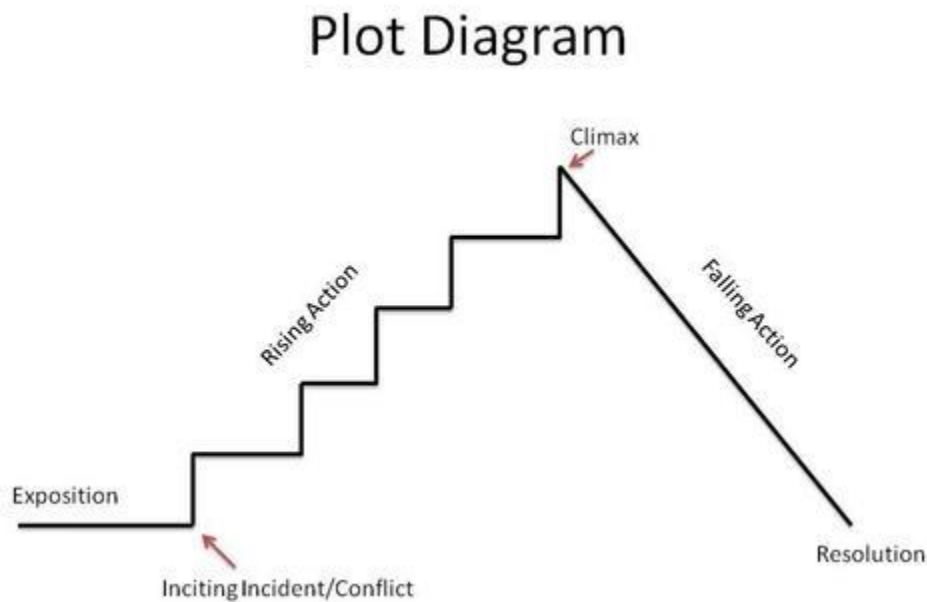
***Exposition*** (also called the Introduction) – the beginning of the story; the situation before the action starts, where the characters and setting are revealed

***Rising Action*** – events become more complicated and the author introduces the conflict

***Climax*** – turning point; the most intense moment, either mentally or in terms of physical action

***Falling Action*** – all action that follows the climax, during which time the situation begins to resolve itself or draw to a close

***Resolution*** (also called the Conclusion or Denouement) – the final outcome



**CHARACTERIZATION** (Character Traits) – the personality a character displays as well as the means by which an author reveals that personality

***Indirect Characterization:***

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***Direct Characterization:***

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***Protagonist:***

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***Antagonist:***

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**POINT OF VIEW** – angle or perspective from which the story is told

***1<sup>st</sup> person:***

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***2<sup>nd</sup> person:***

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***3<sup>rd</sup> person:***

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**THEME** – author's message or moral of the story

What is the difference between a topic and a theme?

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Provide an example of a theme:

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# Plot Structure Diagram

## TURNING POINT

(The main event between the protagonist and the antagonist or the moment for which the reader has been waiting.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

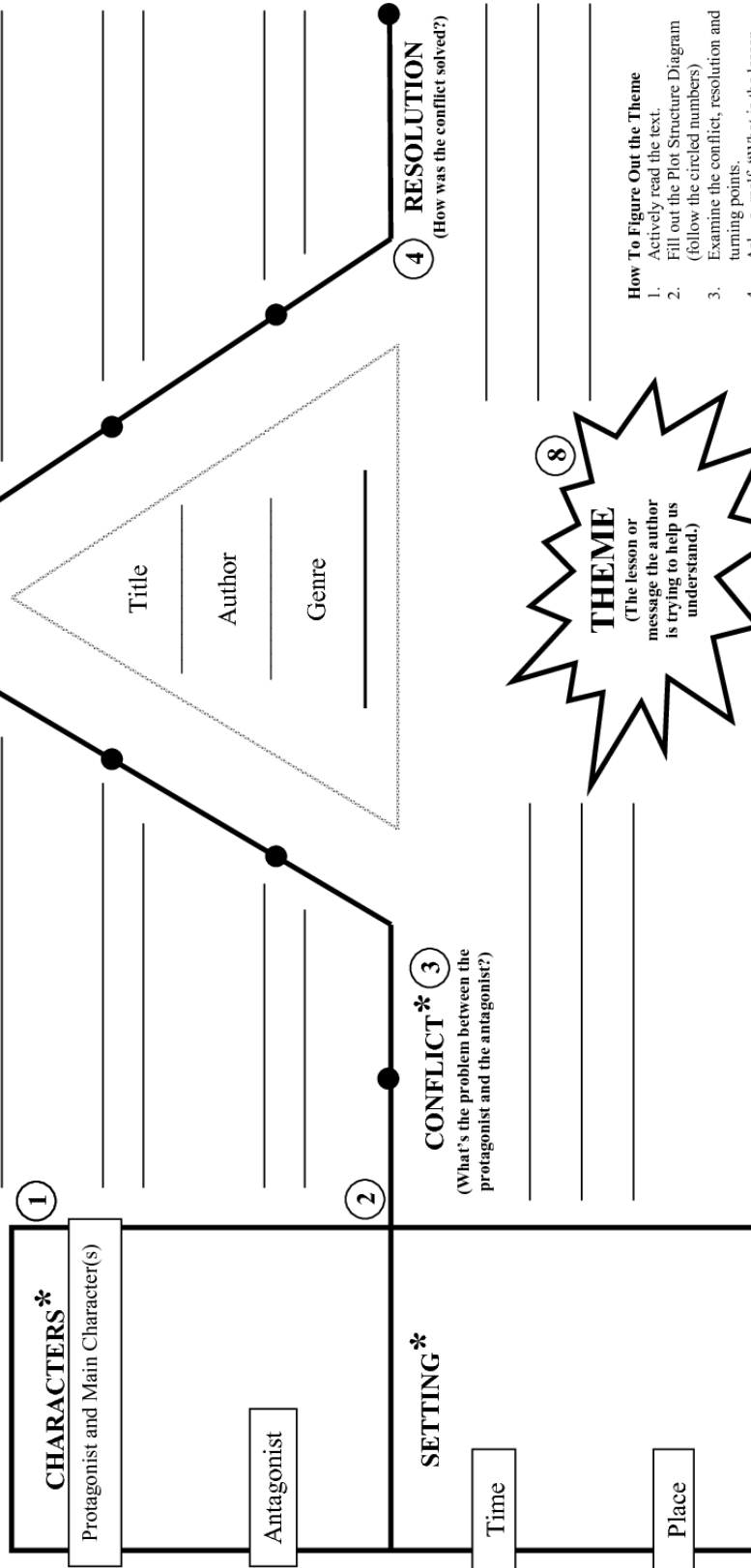
Period \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 RISING ACTION 6

(The major events that lead to the turning point.)

## 7 FALLING ACTION

(The major events that lead to the resolution.)



\*Characters, Setting, Conflict and Mood (how the story makes you feel) combine to create the EXPOSITION which helps you "get into" the story, novel or movie from the very beginning.

## How To Figure Out the Theme

1. Actively read the text.
2. Fill out the Plot Structure Diagram (follow the circled numbers)
3. Examine the conflict, resolution and turning points.
4. Ask yourself, "What is the lesson the protagonist learned?"
5. Reword #4 so that it can apply to anyone who reads the story.