

# Plot Structure

ELA 7  
Day 1

The series of related events in a story is called the **plot**. The plot of most stories centers around a **conflict** or problem. The plot develops in the following stages.

- The **exposition**, which is sometimes called **orientation**, introduces the characters and setting and establishes the conflict.
- The **rising action** includes **complications**, or twists in events that develop and build the conflict.
- The **climax** is the high point of the conflict, when the tension is greatest.
- The **falling action** shows the outcome of the climax and how characters resolve the conflict.
- The **resolution** reveals the final outcomes in the story.

Use the following steps to analyze the structure of a plot.

**Step 1: Identify the plot's exposition or orientation.** The plot's exposition, or orientation, introduces the story's characters, setting, and basic situation.

**EXAMPLE** Jack and his mother are extremely poor. Jack sets off to the market to sell their only possession, a cow.

**Step 2: Look for the conflict, or the struggle, the story presents.**

**EXAMPLE** Jack sells the cow for some supposedly magic beans. His mother is angry with him for being a fool and throws the beans out the window.

**Step 3: Observe how the complications enlarge the conflict in the rising action.**

**EXAMPLE** The beans grow overnight into a giant beanstalk. Jack climbs up and meets an ogress, who takes him to her home. Her ogre husband is counting gold. Jack grabs some gold and climbs down. He climbs up twice more to take a hen that lays golden eggs and a harp that sings.

**Step 4: Look for the climax.** The climax is the turning point in the story.

**EXAMPLE** As the ogre sleeps, Jack steals the harp, which cries out to its master and wakes him. The furious ogre chases Jack down the beanstalk. Jack chops down the beanstalk and the ogre crashes to his death.

**Step 5: Recognize the falling action and resolution.** After the turning point, the original conflict decreases or resolves, although new ones may be introduced.

**EXAMPLE** The magical hen and harp are now Jack's. He and his mother become rich and famous.

**Step 6: Understand how the plot elements affect the meaning.** Does the plot affect your emotions or provide an insight?

**EXAMPLE** The plot of "Jack and the Beanstalk" shows that apparently foolish acts can sometimes have remarkably fortunate consequences.

# Plot Structure

## How the Raven Stole the Sun a Haida myth

A long time ago, Raven was very hungry. But as hard as he tried, he could not find any food because the world was so dark. Up above in the heavens, a powerful chief kept the sun in a box all to himself and refused to share it with anyone. So one day Raven set out on a journey to bring sunlight to the earth.

Raven decided to trick the chief by sneaking into his house and stealing the sun. When Raven discovered that the chief's daughter went to the spring every day for water, he changed himself into a leaf and floated into her cup. But as she began to drink, the chief's daughter eyed the leaf with suspicion and threw the water back.

The next day, Raven changed himself into a pine needle, and tried to fool the chief's daughter once again. But as soon as she picked up her cup, she saw the pine needle and tossed it out. Finally, Raven turned into a grain of sand so tiny, that when the chief's daughter dipped her cup into the spring and drank her fill, she never knew that she had swallowed Raven!

Later the chief's daughter was surprised to learn that she was going to have a baby. Soon the baby (who was really Raven) was born. The chief and his daughter grew to love the child and did everything they could to make him happy. But no matter what they did, the baby cried and cried. The chief gave him every toy imaginable to play with, but still he cried.

Each day the baby grew more and more unhappy. Finally the baby screamed and wept for the carved wooden box in which the sun was kept hidden. Reluctantly, the chief opened the box and gave the baby the ball of light to play with. But the moment the chief opened up the box, the baby turned back into Raven. He flew up through the chimney, carrying the sun away in his beak.

The chief was furious for being tricked. He chased after Raven, far into the heavens. The sun was very heavy, and in order to fly faster, Raven broke off some pieces and threw them into the sky. These became the moon, the stars, and the planets.

The chief was getting closer and closer to Raven, who began to tire from his heavy load. Finally right before Raven got to earth, he threw the rest of the light ball into the sky. With a flash of light that filled the universe, it became the sun. All the creatures of the earth rejoiced because for the first time, there was enough light to find food.

From carrying the sun on this long journey, Raven's body was completely scorched and that is why his feathers are black today.

The **exposition**, or **orientation**, introduces the characters and the conflict: Raven sets out to get the sun.

**Rising action** includes **complications** that develop the conflict: Raven tries to enter the chief's home and find the sun.

**Climax:** Raven grabs the sun and flies off.

**Falling action:** Raven creates the moon, stars, planets, and places the sun in the sky over earth.

**Resolution:** Earth's creatures are delighted to have light.

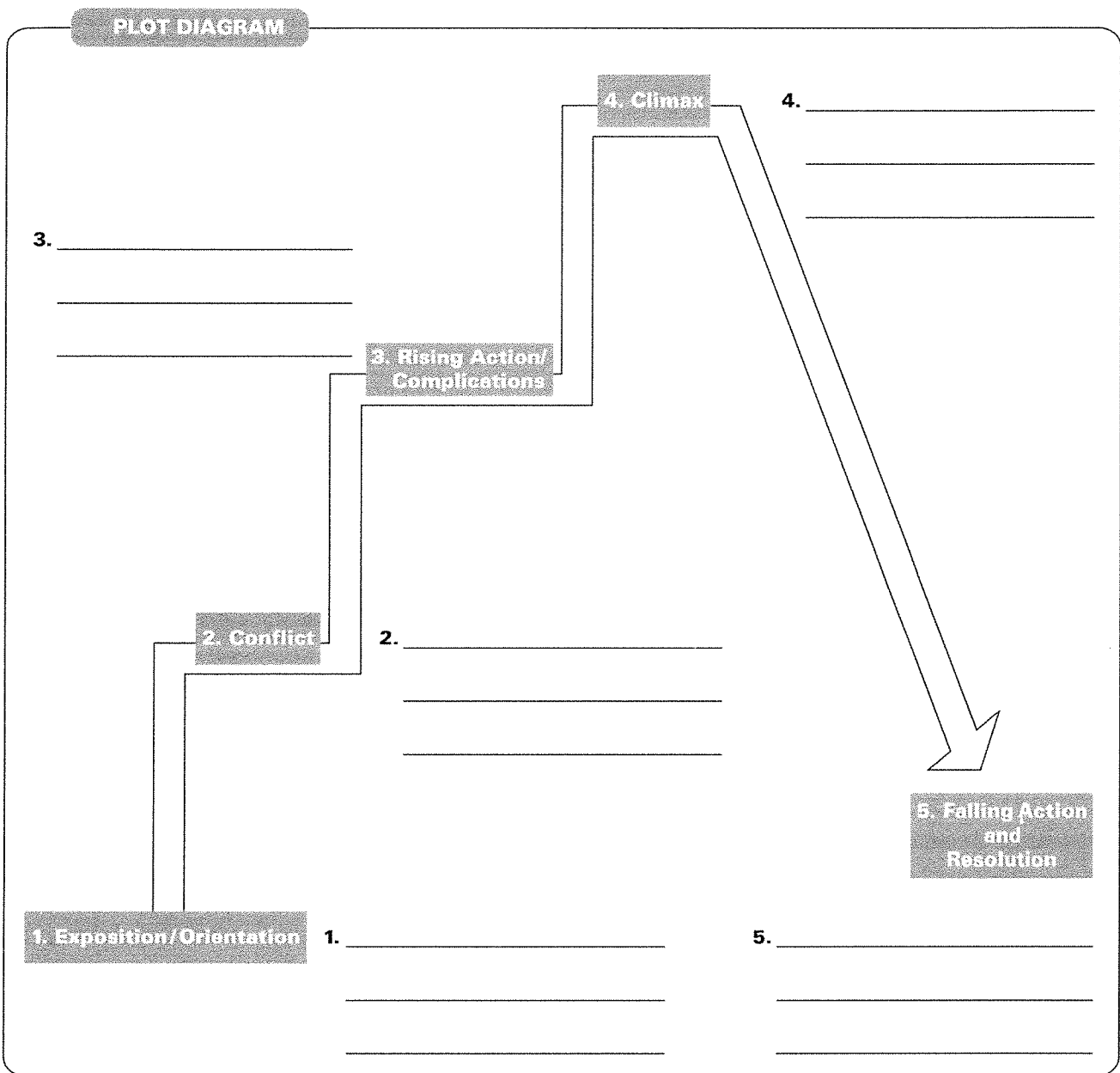
# Plot Structure

**Practice and Apply** Read the following narrative. Then fill in the plot diagram. Identify the exposition or orientation, conflict, rising action or complications, climax, falling action, and resolution.

## ARACHNE AND THE GODDESS ATHENA

The young Greek maiden Arachne was skilled at spinning wool into thread and then weaving that thread into beautiful fabric. She resented it when people said that the goddess Athena must have given her this talent. Arachne claimed that she could spin better than the goddess herself. Athena heard of this boast and decided to teach the proud girl a lesson. She appeared as an old beggar woman and scolded Arachne for insulting the goddess. Arachne replied that if Athena were offended, she should come down to earth and accept Arachne's challenge to a spinning contest. The girl was stunned when the old beggar woman turned into Athena. Arachne knew she had gone too far, but refused to admit it.

A crowd gathered as the goddess and the maiden sat at large looms and started weaving. Arachne nearly matched Athena in speed and skill, but the goddess was quicker. Upset, Arachne wove into her fabric scenes in which the gods behaved badly. Seeing this, Athena grew so angry that she slapped Arachne. Insulted, Arachne declared that she would hang herself with her own thread. Athena told her that she would live a long time and do nothing but spin for the rest of her days. Then she transformed Arachne into a spider. The onlookers were shocked. They realized that they must not compete with the gods or they would risk Arachne's fate.



# Plot Structure

**Practice and Apply** Read the following story. Then answer the questions below.

## RUMPELSTILTSKIN

The miller was so proud of his daughter that he claimed she could spin straw into gold. So the king led her to a room filled with straw and ordered her to turn it into gold overnight, or die. After he left, a strange little man appeared and offered to do the work in return for the girl's necklace. She agreed and was stunned the next day to see the straw replaced with gold. The king ordered her to do it again, and again the little man spun the straw into gold, this time in exchange for the girl's ring. The third time, the girl was heartbroken, for she had nothing left to give the little man. He said she had to give him her first child. She agreed, and the little man spun straw into gold again. The king was so thrilled he married the miller's daughter and within a year they had a baby boy. One day, the little man appeared and reminded the queen of their bargain. She begged him not to take her boy. Finally, he said if she could guess his name within three days, he would release her. Each night she guessed, but guessed wrongly, and the little man laughed. By the third night, she was miserable. To amuse her, a servant told about seeing a little man dancing around a campfire, singing, "The queen will pine! I'll win this game! For Rumpelstiltskin is my name!" The queen felt a ray of hope. That night the little man gave her a last chance to guess his name. Her heart pounding, she asked, "Could it be . . . Rumpelstiltskin?" The little man was so angry he shot up into the air and then spun around so fast that he went right through the floor and down into the center of the earth. The queen never saw him again. Her child was safe, and she and the king lived happily ever after.

1. What is the exposition or orientation in this story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the basic conflict? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What complications occur in the rising action? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the climax of the story? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the falling action? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Identify the resolution of the story. \_\_\_\_\_
7. How does the plot convey the story's meaning? \_\_\_\_\_

# Plot Structure

**Review Plot** is the series of events in a story. The plot usually centers on a **conflict**—a struggle or problem—faced by the main character. Most story plots have five stages: the **exposition** or **orientation** (introduction), **rising action** (complications that develop the conflict), **climax** (high point of the conflict), **falling action** (what happens after the climax), and the **resolution** (the outcomes of the climax, telling how everything turns out, during which the main conflict may or may not be solved, and new ones may develop).

**Practice and Apply** First, **read** each question. Then, **circle** the letter of the *best* answer to the question.

1. The climax is *most likely* to be preceded by which part of a plot?
  - a. the falling action
  - b. the resolution
  - c. the rising action
2. In the story of Cinderella, which of the following represents a complication?
  - a. the description of Cinderella's mistreatment by her wicked stepmother
  - b. the prince's discovery that Cinderella's foot fits the glass slipper
  - c. the arrival of Cinderella's fairy godmother
3. In a movie about superheroes, what usually happens in the climax?
  - a. the superheroes discover a threat to the human race
  - b. several of the superheroes quarrel
  - c. the superheroes band together to save the world
4. The complications affect the meaning of a story by
  - a. indicating how the conflict will be settled
  - b. developing the conflict
  - c. explaining what happens to everyone
5. In a love story, which event is *most likely* to occur in the exposition, or orientation?
  - a. the meeting of two young people
  - b. a quarrel between the two young people
  - c. the attempts of their friends to get them to make up

# Chapter 1

## ROMAN CIVILIZATION

History 7  
Day 1

### Key Words in Chapter 1

Academic Words	Words with Multiple Meanings	Content Vocabulary
analyze	point	anatomy
construction		barter
contribution		inflation
controversy		
ignore		
incorporate		
maintain		
significance		



### Word Meaning Activity

#### Identifying Synonyms

Note: Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. The words *dangerous* and *unsafe* are synonyms.

**Directions:** Study the words and their definitions below. Then, match the words in Column A with their synonyms in Column B.

analyze (v.): to examine the nature or structure of something

construction (n.): the action of building

contribution (n.): something such as money that is given to another person

controversy (n.): public discussion or argument, often angry, about a subject

incorporate (v.): to make part of a whole, to include

ignore (v.): to pretend that someone or something does not exist

maintain (v.): to cause to continue, to keep in good condition

significance (n.): importance



**A. Words**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. analyze
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. contribution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. controversy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. incorporate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. ignore
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. maintain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. significance

**B. Synonyms**

- a. donation
- b. pay no attention to
- c. building, formation, creation
- d. disagreement, argument
- e. meaning, relevance
- f. add in, include, fit in
- g. keep up, preserve
- h. break down into parts, examine



**Word Usage Activity**

**Understanding Words with Multiple Meanings**

Word Usage Note: Understanding Words with Multiple Meanings

Some words such as *point* have many meanings:

- a. (n.) a sharp end
- b. (n.) a specific spot
- c. (n.) the major idea in a speech, discussion, piece of writing, or behind an action
- d. (v.) to indicate direction

**Directions:** Match the above definitions of the word *point* to the underlined words in the sentences below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The point of a Roman boy burning his toys as a teenager was to indicate that he had become a man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Weapons used during the period of Roman civilization had very sharp points.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The famous expression “All roads lead to Rome” can be rephrased as “All road signs point toward Rome.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When Roman civilization was at its peak, one point on its map would have been the country now called the United Kingdom.

(continued)

## **C** Word Meaning Activity

### Layers of Meaning

Word Usage Note: Understanding Layers of Meanings

Academic words like *constructive* often have layers of meanings. The word *constructive* is an adjective that means helpful. It also means having a useful purpose.

Shannon gave *constructive* criticism on Megan's history report.

**Directions:** Circle the words and phrases below that you might use to describe criticism that is *constructive*.

harsh	beneficial	practical
destructive	harmful	positive
supportive	difficult to use	usable
easy to apply	unhelpful	functional
of value	frustrating	good

## **D** Word Family Activity

### Sentence Completion

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word.

**1. controversy / controversial**

Noun (a) \_\_\_\_\_ among the army leaders led to fights over the throne for almost 50 years.

Adjective (b.) Diocletian and Constantine tried to institute \_\_\_\_\_ reforms toward the end of the Roman Empire.

**2. legislation / legislator / legislated / legislative**

Verb (a.) The Roman government \_\_\_\_\_ over a vast region.

Noun (b.) \_\_\_\_\_ during Roman times gave men more rights than women.

Adjective (c.) Roman senators held the main \_\_\_\_\_ power.

Using Light • Chapter 2 Key Terms

Science 7  
Day 1

### Key Terms

Answer the questions by writing the correct key terms in the blanks. Use the circled letter in each term to find the hidden key term. Then write a definition for the hidden key term.

What is a curved piece of glass or other transparent material that is used to refract light?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is a copy of an object formed by reflected or refracted rays of light?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is an instrument that uses lenses to focus light and film to record an image?

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the transparent front surface of the eye called?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the high point in a wave?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is an instrument that uses a combination of lenses to produce enlarged images of tiny objects?

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

What are substances that are used to color other materials?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is a person called who can see distant objects clearly, but for whom nearby objects appear blurry?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the layer of cells that line the inside of the eyeball?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is a material that reflects or absorbs all of the light that strikes it?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the maximum distance particles of a medium carrying a wave move from their rest positions?

\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hidden Term:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SKILL 10: Practice****7<sup>th</sup> Snow Packet Math Day 1**

Find each product in simplest form.

1.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{9}{10} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

3.  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{5} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

5.  $\frac{5}{6} \times \frac{2}{3} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

6.  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{9} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

7.  $\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{1}{2} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

8.  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{4}{9} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

9.  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{8} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

10.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{13} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

11.  $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{7} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

12.  $\frac{13}{15} \times \frac{1}{4} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

13.  $\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{4}{5} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

14.  $\frac{1}{11} \times \frac{2}{5} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

15.  $\frac{7}{9} \times \frac{2}{11} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

16.  $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

17.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{14}{15} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

18.  $\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{3} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

19.  $\frac{11}{15} \times \frac{1}{10} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

20.  $\frac{8}{9} \times \frac{2}{7} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

21.  $\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{11}{14} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

22.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{7} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

23.  $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

24.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{7}{8} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

25.  $\frac{12}{13} \times \frac{3}{10} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

26.  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{3} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

27.  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{7}{9} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

**Solve.**

28. The total weight of all of the insects in the world is about  $\frac{7}{20}$  billion tons. The total weight of all humans is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of this amount. Find the total weight of all humans.
- \_\_\_\_\_

29. A recipe for granola bars calls for  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of oats. How much of the oats would you use to make  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the amount in the original recipe?
- \_\_\_\_\_

**WEST PREP**

30. Multiply:  $\frac{8}{9} \times \frac{3}{10}$ .

A  $\frac{2}{9}$

C  $\frac{11}{90}$

B  $\frac{4}{15}$

D  $\frac{27}{80}$

Skill 10

31. Which is the best estimate of  $1\frac{8}{9} \times 2\frac{6}{7}$ ?

F 2

H 6

G 4

J 8

Skill 9