



THE ELEMENTS OF PLOT

Freytag's Pyramid

Warm-up: In your notebooks, write a definition for plot in your own words.

00:05:17

WITHOUT PLOT, *THERE IS NO STORY!*

- But what is Plot, exactly?
- What is Plot?
- Quite simply, the Plot is the story.
- (Plot = Story)
- There are many different elements (or parts), to plot that help us deconstruct and analyze a work of literature.



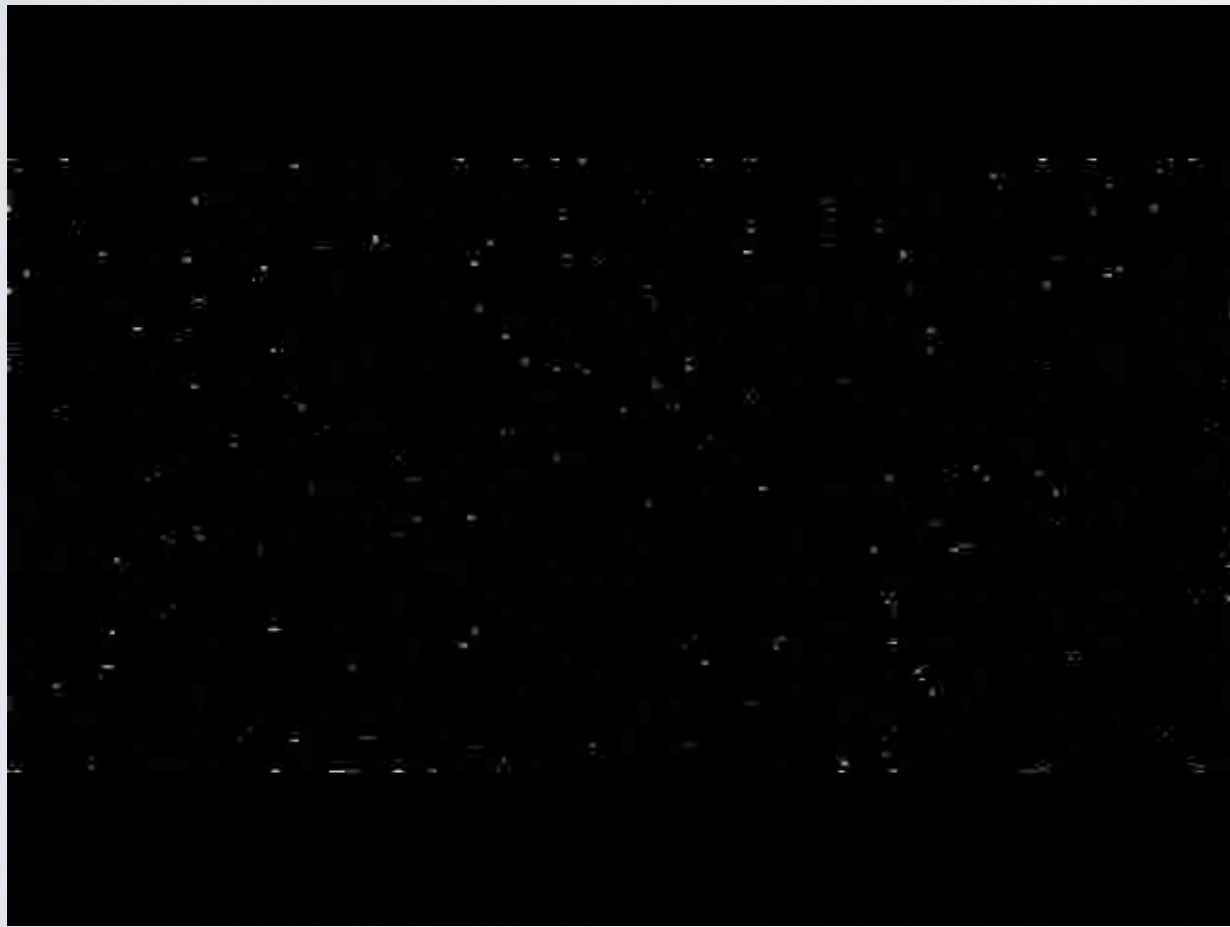
PARTS OF PLOT

(SIMPLE)

- Exposition (Introduction)
- Character(s): Protagonist/Antagonist
- Setting
- Theme
- Conflict (External/Internal)
- Inciting Moment
- Rising Action
- Suspense
- Mini-Climax (Events)
- Major Climax (Crucial Decision)
- Falling Action
- Denouement
- Resolution

EXPOSITION

(INTRODUCTION)

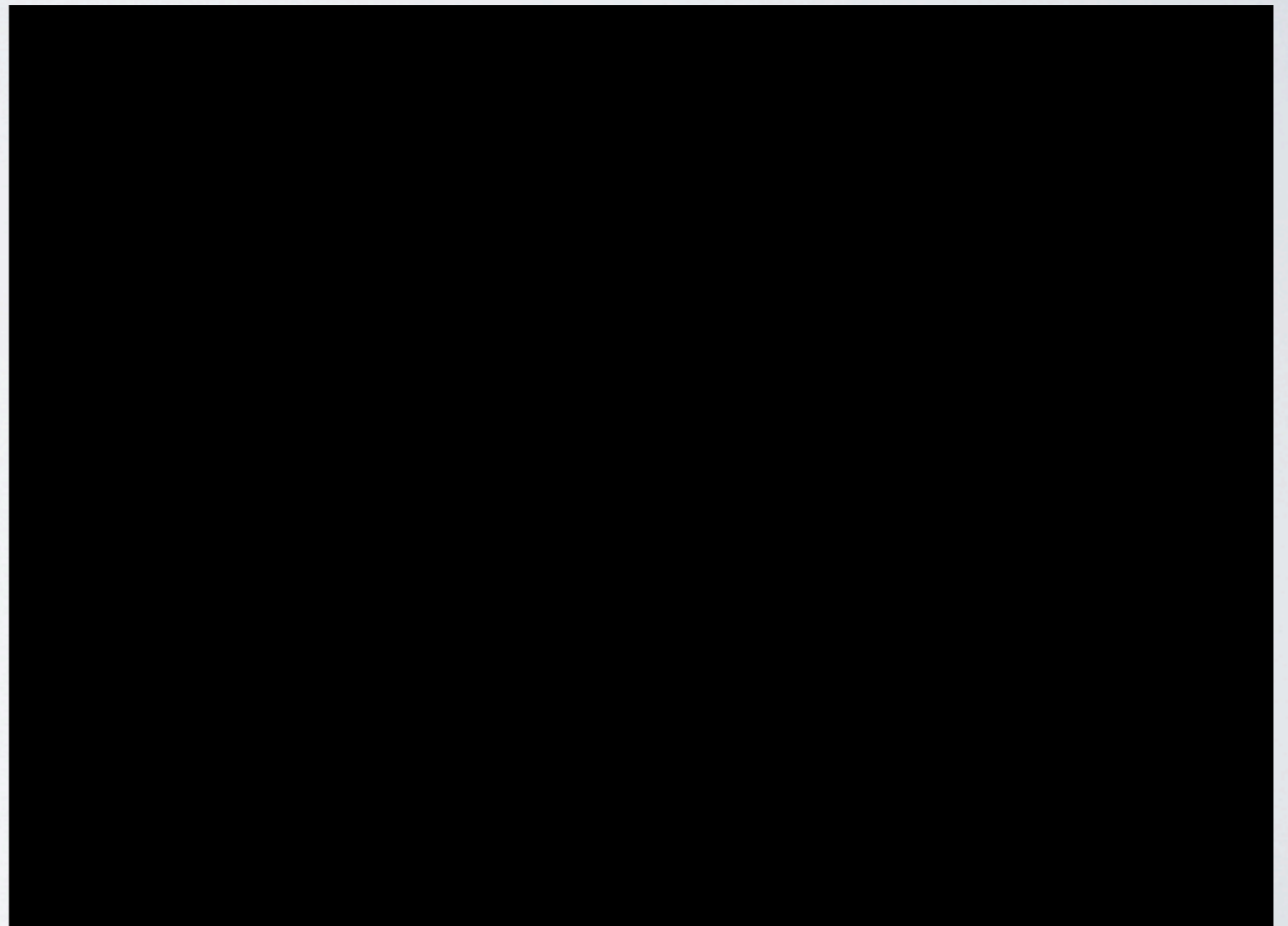


- Exposition is the beginning of the plot that introduces the characters and setting and theme.
- Exposition also introduces the main conflict in story that will need to be resolved.

✓ YOUR UNDERSTANDING

DIRECTIONS: CAN YOU IDENTIFY ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE EXPOSITION? WATCH THE VIDEO AND CHECK OFF WHAT YOU FIND ON YOUR VOCABULARY LIST.

- Were the main characters introduced?
- Protagonist?
- Antagonist?
- Was the Setting established?
- Main Conflict?
- Theme?



CONFLICT

THERE ARE 5 BASIC TYPES OF CONFLICT:

External

Person vs. Person - One character in a story has a problem with one or more of the other characters.

Person vs. Society - A character has a conflict or problem with society.

Person vs. Nature - A character has a problem with some element of nature.

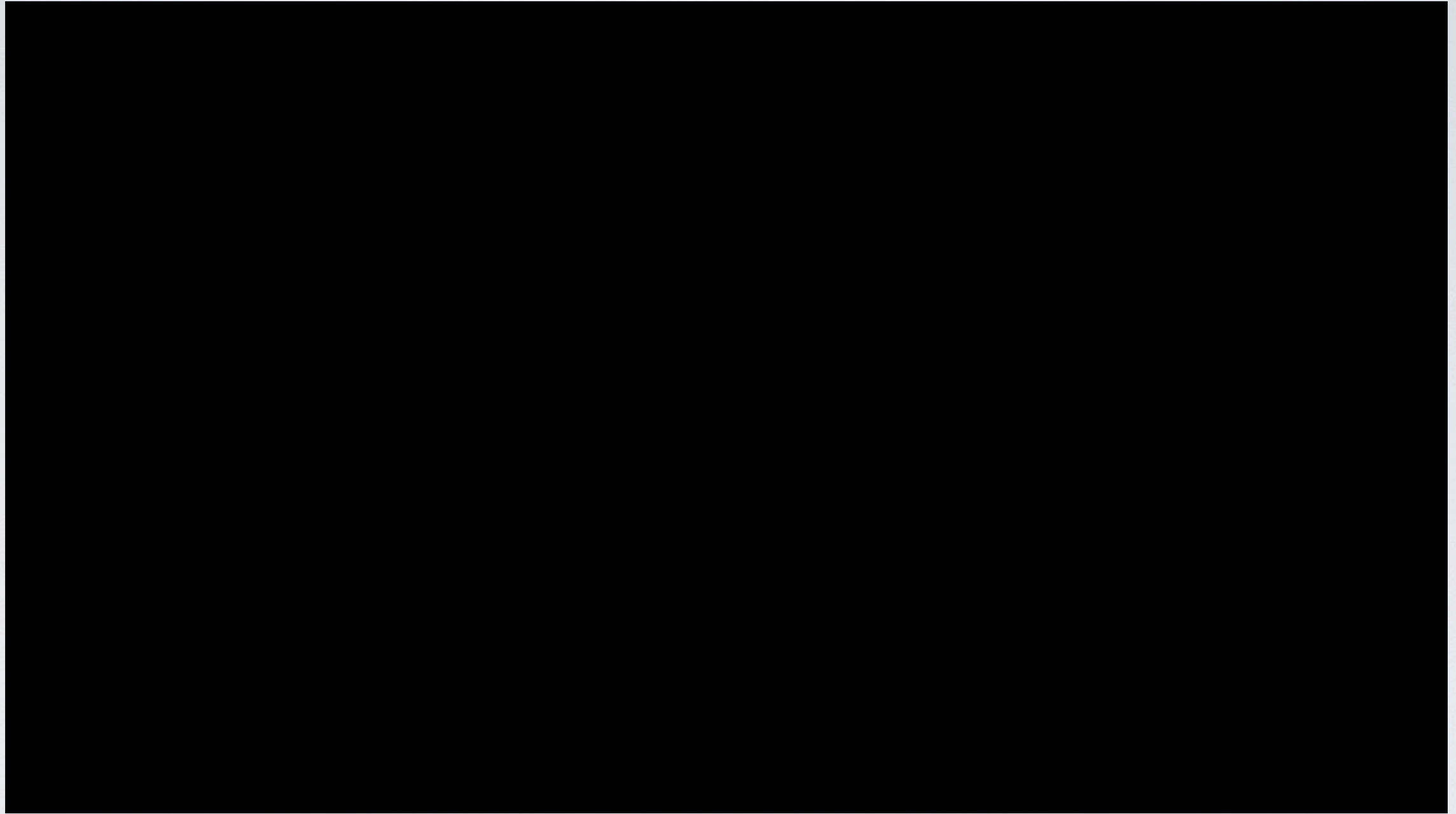
Person vs. Fate - A character has to battle what seems to be an uncontrollable problem.

Internal

Person vs. Himself/Herself - A character struggles inside and has trouble deciding what to do.



PERSON VS. SOCIETY



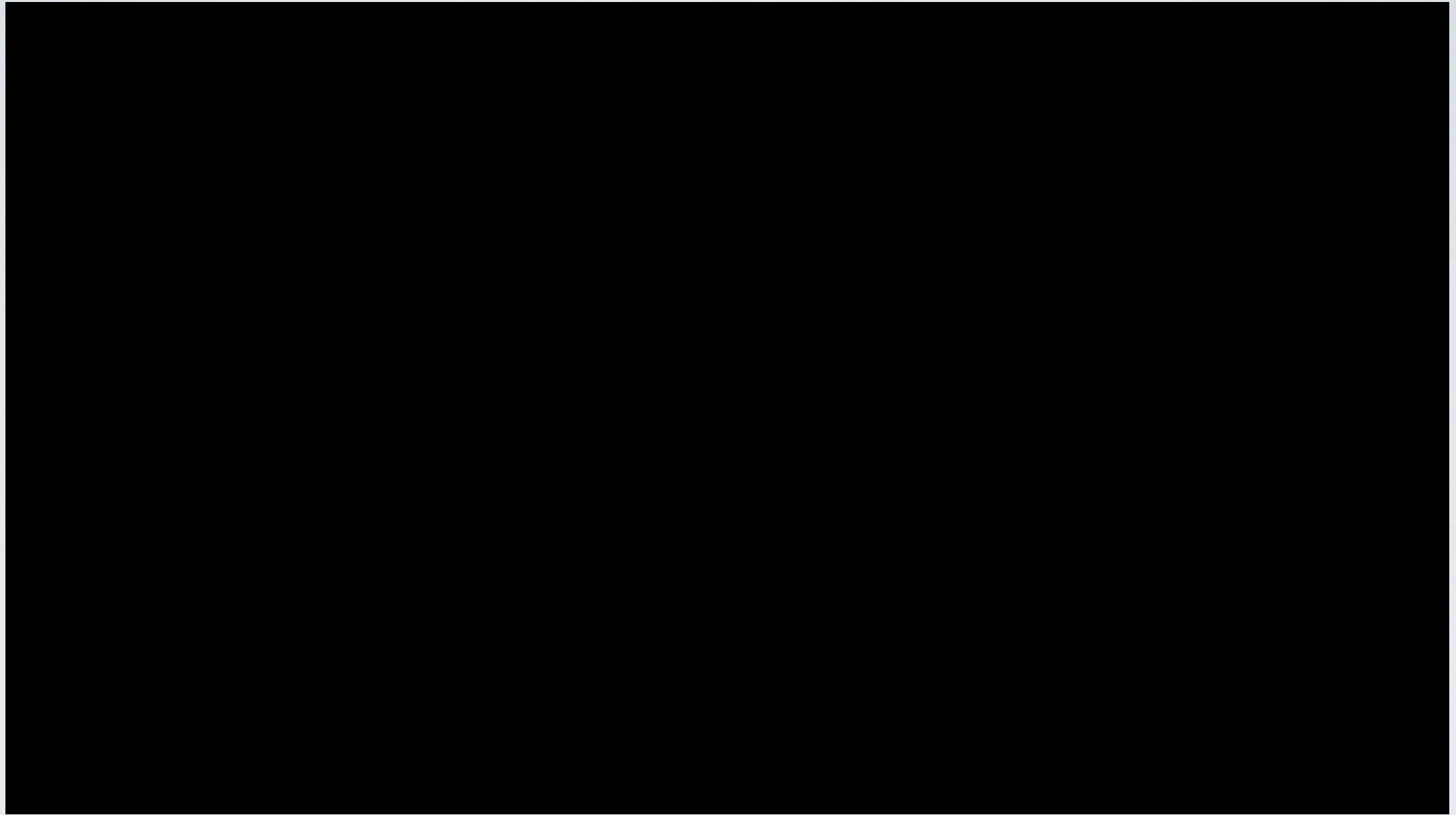
PERSON VS. NATURE

THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
ALL AUDIENCES
BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

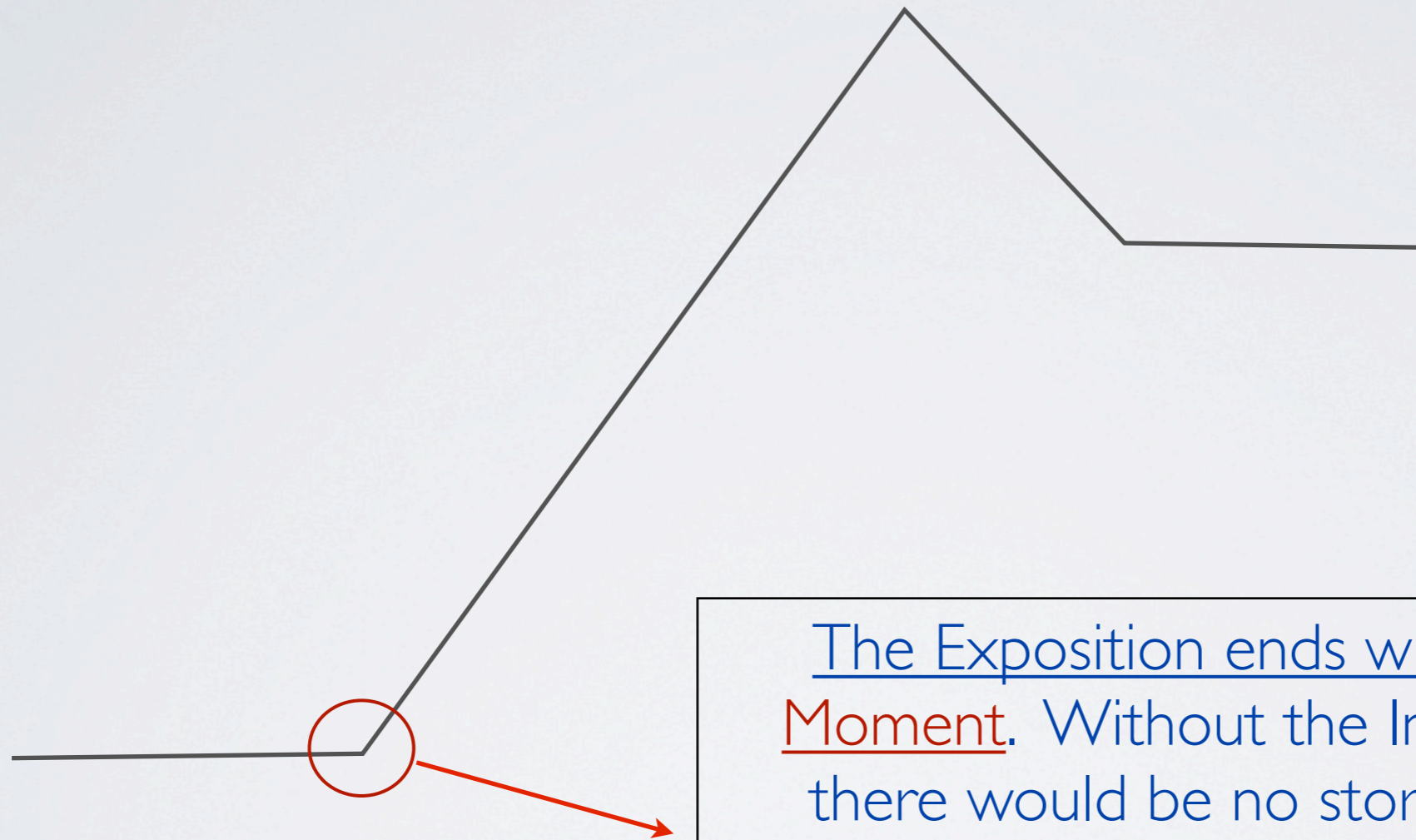
PERSON VS. FATE



PERSON VS. SELF



INCITING MOMENT



The Exposition ends with the Inciting Moment. Without the Inciting Moment there would be no story. The Inciting Moment introduces the main conflict and sets the remainder of the story in motion beginning with Rising Action.

RISING ACTION

- Rising action is the central part of the story during which various problems arise, leading up to the climax.
- These problems are called “events” or mini-climaxes.
- These events include various obstacles that frustrate the protagonist’s attempts to reach his/her goal.

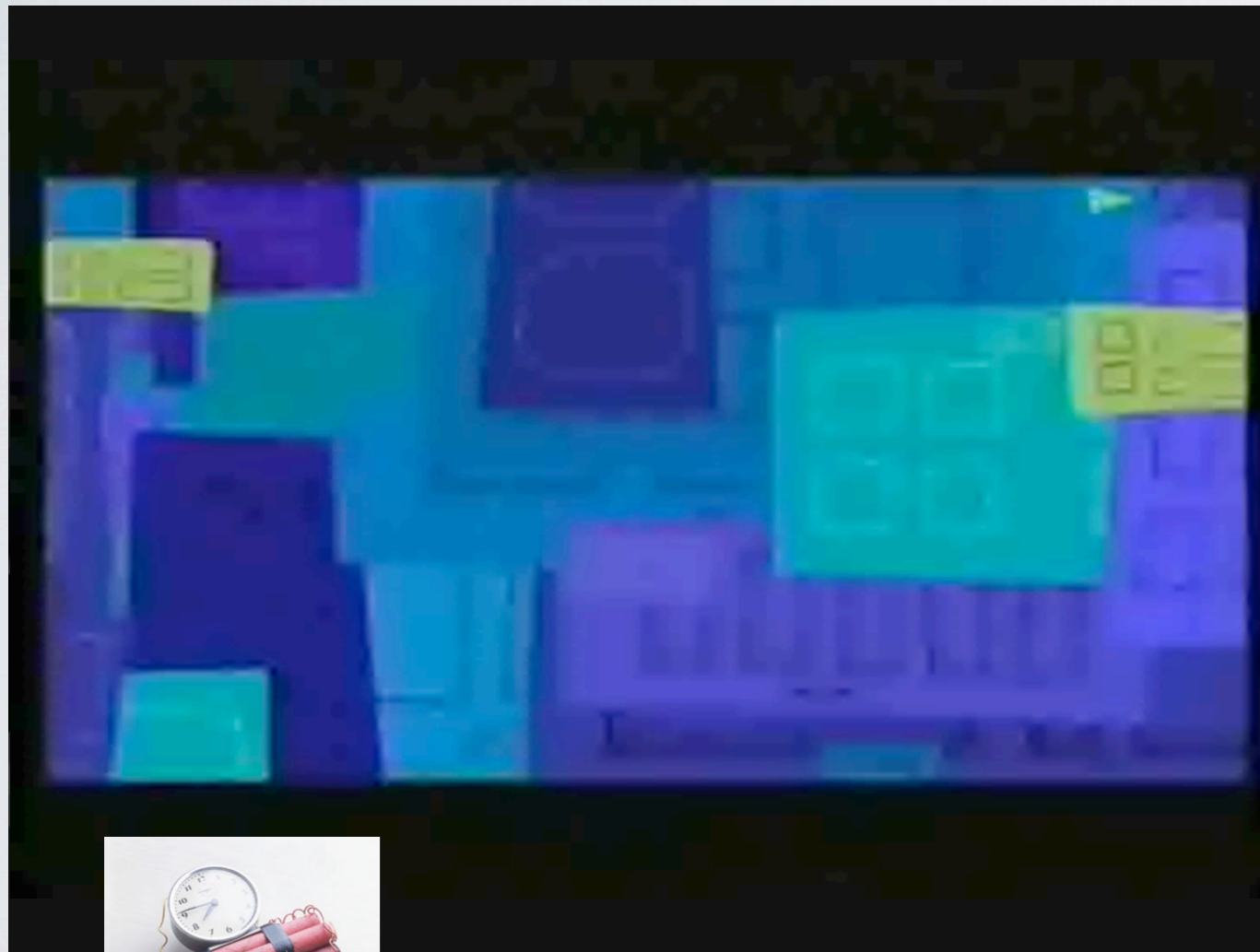


SUSPENSE

GASP



- Suspense is the big lead up to a big event or dramatic moment (climax).
- Suspense creates a feeling of uncertainty, anxiety and tension in the audience, which keeps the audience “sitting on the edge of their seat” and engaged with the story.
- These feelings are created when the audience expects something bad to happen, yet are powerless to intervene to prevent it from happening.
- The audience can not stay in a moment of anxiety or tension indefinitely, therefore moments of intense suspense are often followed by moments of comic relief or a “sigh” of relief.



CLIMAX

Climax is the **high point of the story**, where the culmination (coming together), of events **create** the peak of the **conflict**.



The climax usually features the most **conflict** and **struggle**, and usually **reveals** any **secrets** or **missing points** in the story.

RESOLUTION

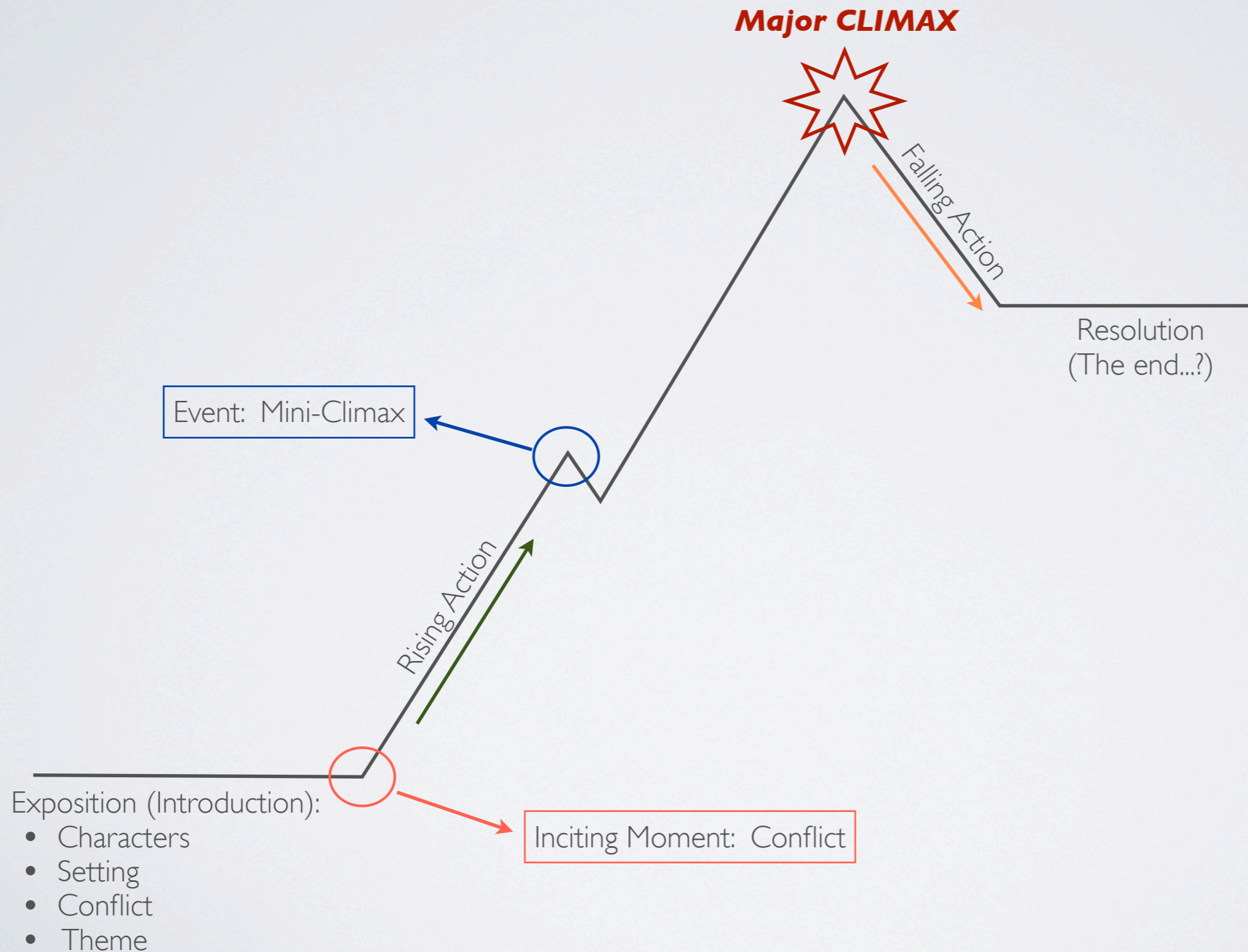
OR, HAPPILY EVER AFTER?...

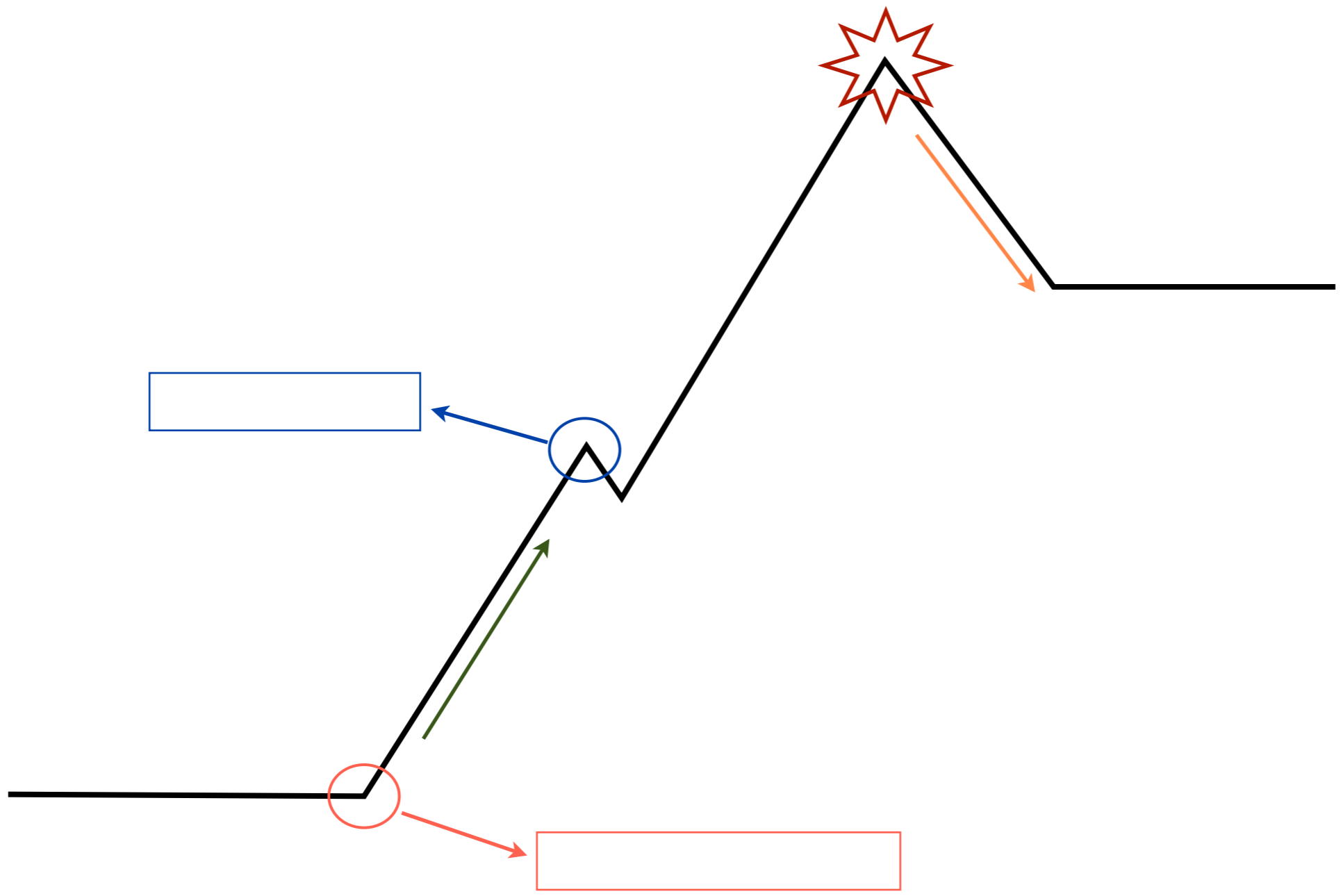


- The conclusion to the story.
- The conflicts are resolved.
- Creates normality for the characters and a sense of catharsis (cleansing, purification).
- A release of tension and anxiety for the reader/audience.
- Not all stories have a resolution. Some are cliff-hangers.

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID

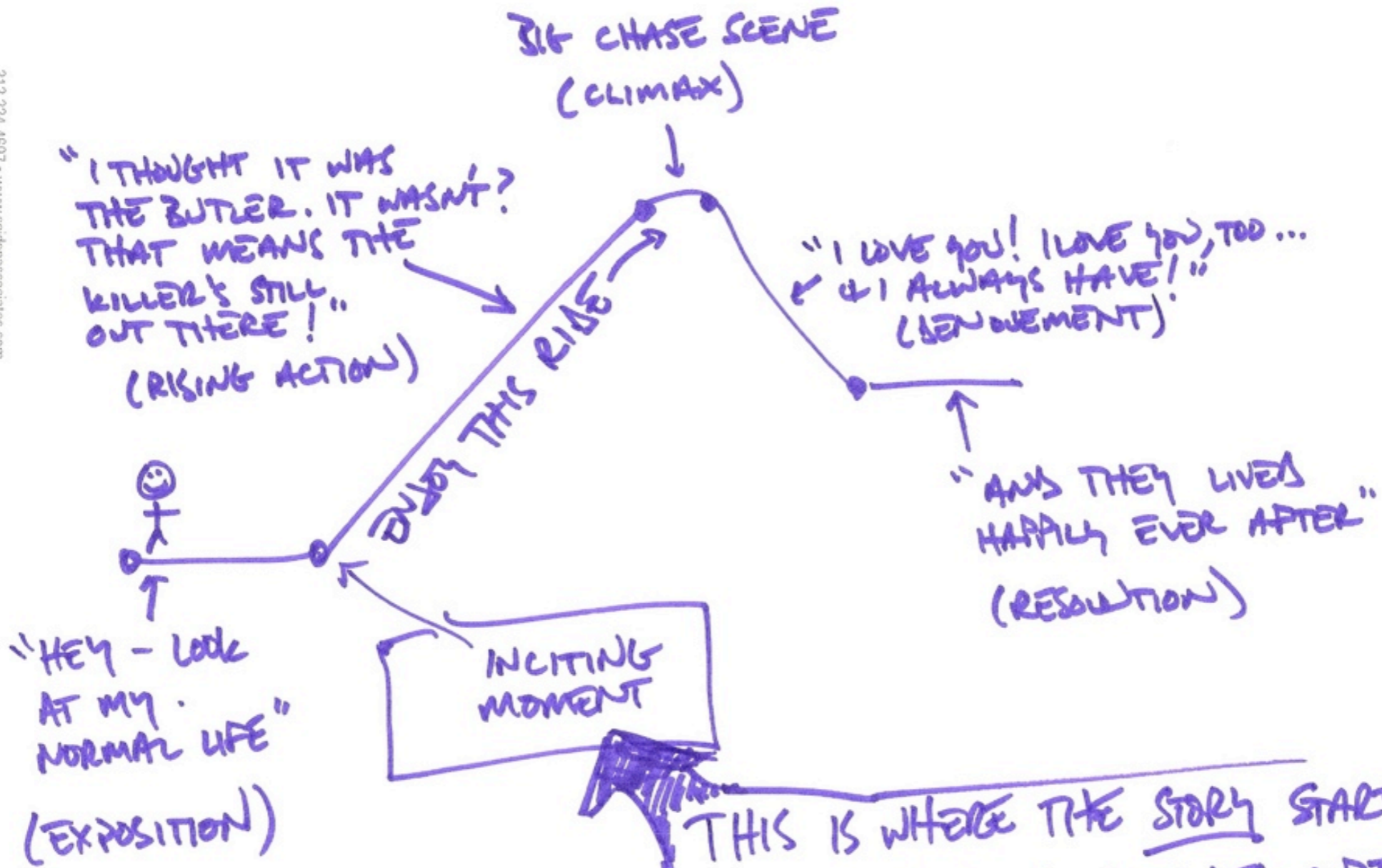
(A VISUAL WAY OF UNDERSTANDING PLOT)





A+ PAPER

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THIS IS WHERE THE STORY STARTS. BEFORE THIS, IT'S JUST DESCRIPTIVE. ACTION FOLLOWS. USE SMALL + UNEXPECTED, THIS MOMENT FINDS YOU, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

 Jan 9/2/09

PRACTICE

DIRECTIONS: DRAW A PLOT DIAGRAM ON THE BACK OF YOUR NOTES AND PRACTICE IDENTIFYING AND LABELING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF PLOT WITH YOUR TEACHER FROM THE SHORT FILM BELOW.

