

Middle
or
Heart
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Crisis -- A sudden, dramatic, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous situation that feels decisive. It is prior to the climax, however, and some stabilization occurs.

Rising Action #2 / Complications -- Further actions and dialogue that propel the action and add to the protagonist's dilemma; suspense and excitement is heightened as antagonists and obstacles sharpen the conflict.

Rising Action #1 / Complications -- A problem that triggers a series of plot incidents and dialogues that create suspense, as conflicts and antagonists act on the protagonist.

Exposition -- The word root is "expose" or reveal. The introduction to a story or movie, revealed through narration or dialogue, so we know the basic situation: the setting, the characters, and events that occurred before the main plot.

Climax -- The decisive point or action in the plot with the greatest intensity, suspense and interest; after this, the situation is clearly changed and things cannot return to how they have been.

Epiphany -- The "aha!" moment when we and hopefully a character -- because of the climax -- have a sudden insight, a flash of understanding about life, a character, etc.

Falling Action -- The action that works out the decision arrived at in the climax and its effects on the protagonist and other characters; tensions and anxieties diminish.

Resolution -- The story's closing where loose ends are tied up and questions are answered while others may be raised. In French, the resolution is called the *dénouement*, or the "untying of the knot."

The PLOT MOUNTAIN
or STORY ARC

End

Beginning
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