

**PLOT** -- The plot is how the author arranges events to develop his basic idea; It is the sequence of events in a story or play. The plot is a planned, logical series of events having a **beginning**, **middle**, and **end**. The short story usually has one plot so it can be read in one sitting. There are five essential parts of plot:

- a) **Introduction** - The beginning of the story where the characters and the setting is revealed. During the introduction the conflict is also introduced.
- b) **Rising Action** - This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is developed (events between the introduction and climax).
- c) **Climax** - This is the highest point of interest and the turning point of the story. The reader wonders what will happen next; will the conflict be resolved or not?
- d) **Falling action** - The events and complications begin to resolve themselves. The reader knows what has happened next and if the conflict was resolved or not (events between climax and denouement).
- e) **Resolution** - This is the final outcome or untangling of events in the story.

It is helpful to consider climax as a three-fold phenomenon:

1. The main character receives new information
2. Accepts this information (realizes it but does not necessarily agree with it)
3. Acts on this information (makes a choice that will determine whether or not he/she gains his objective).

**PLOT GRAPHS** are used to illustrate the five essential parts of the plot of a story.