

Story Plotting

With the Five-Act Structure

Act 1: Introduction

- This is about 10% of your story.
- It sets the scene.

1. **Who** are your characters?
2. **Where** does the story take place?
3. **When** does it happen?
4. **What** is the problem, and what disrupts the status quo?
5. **Why** does it matter to your protagonist?

Act 2: Rising Action

- This is about 40% of your story.
- All characters should be introduced by the end of this act.

As you move the story towards the climax, you should have a series of smaller incidents and the opportunity for characters to react to them. Use the action/reaction cycle as many times as you need to.

Action:

Reaction:

Action:

Reaction:

Action:

Reaction:

Act 3: Climax

- This is usually one scene or chapter.

What is the worst thing that can happen to your protagonist, his plans, and his relationships?

Act 4: Falling Action

- This is about 30% of the story.

1. How do your characters regroup after the climax?

2. What do they learn from it?

3. What do they do the same or differently?

Act 5: Denouement

- This is about 20% of the story.

What is one last obstacle for your protagonist?

How does he overcome it with what he's learned?

How is everything resolved?