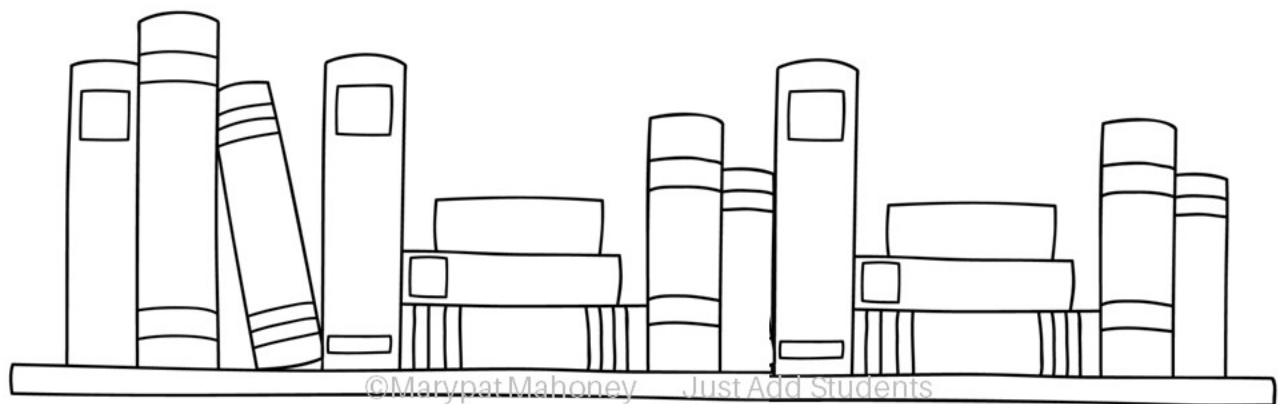


Plot Analysis

Name _____

Class _____



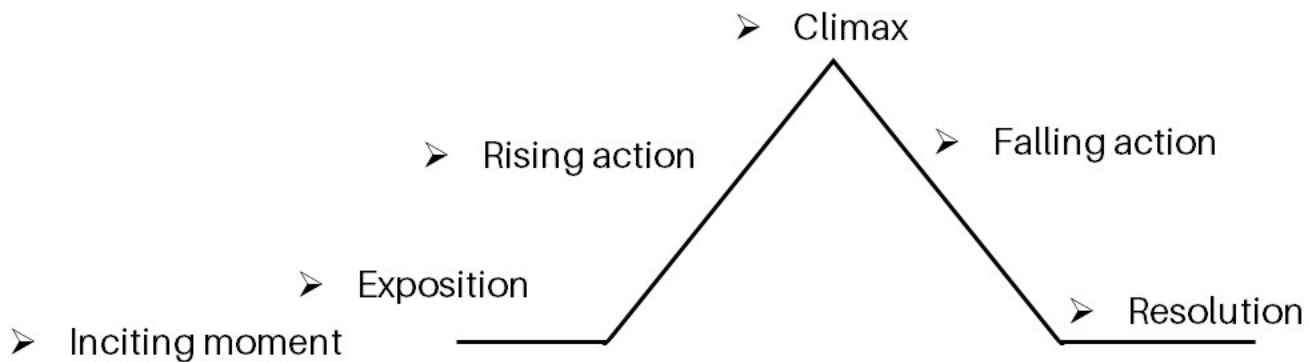
Imagine that you get to school, open your locker or backpack, and a baby alligator hops out. Write a few sentences about what happens next:

Congratulations! You've just written a plot - or part of one.

Plot refers to the events of a story.

Just like what happens after you discover a baby alligator in your backpack, events of a plot progress and change.

Parts of the plot: In 1863, Gustav Freytag wrote about the elements of plot. Today, we refer to Freytag's pyramid as a way to analyze and distinguish plot.



The *inciting moment* refers to what starts the story (like an alligator in your backpack).

Exposition gives the reader background and "explanation" about the story.

Rising action refers to the unfolding events of the story.

The most exciting part of the plot is called the *climax*.

The plot begins to conclude during the *falling action*.

The story is wrapped up during the *resolution*.

What do you notice?

Observation
Notes

You will be watching a short film. Afterwards, jot down a few notes about what you notice.

1. What is the film about? _____

2. What problem is the main character trying to solve? _____

3. What problems are other characters trying to solve? _____

4. What is the most important things that happen at the beginning? _____

5. What is the most important things that happen in the middle? _____

6. What happens at the conclusion? _____

Analyze the Plot

Analysis # 1

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the plot as you watch a short video.

Notice that sometimes the events of the plot happen quickly.

- Climax: What is the most exciting event or how does the problem become a crisis?

- Rising action: What events happen to increase tension or excitement?

- Falling action: What events happen to conclude or begin to wrap up?

- Exposition: What background information to you get?

- Inciting moment: What happens to start the plot?

- Resolution: What happens to wrap up and resolve the plot?

As you look at the plot, here are some questions to consider.

- ✓ Is the plot believable?
- ✓ Does the plot move forward in a straight line? How does this effect the story?
- ✓ Does the writer use a flashback (showing a past event) or foreshadowing (hinting at a future event)?
- ✓ If flashback is used, how does it influence the telling of the story?
- ✓ If foreshadowing is used, how does it influence the telling of the story?
- ✓ What are the important events of the plot?
- ✓ What is at stake for the characters as the plot moves forward?
- ✓ What is the most important event?
- ✓ How does the plot effect the characters?
- ✓ How do the characters effect the plot?
- ✓ How does the plot effect the tension or conflict?
- ✓ Do elements of the plot create the tension or conflict?
- ✓ How does the writer use the plot to create tension?
- ✓ How does the story change after the climax?
- ✓ Are there any scenes that you feel are missing from the plot?
- ✓ What plot events occur that the main character may not be aware of? How does this effect the tension or conflict?
- ✓ What events are outside the characters' control?
- ✓ Is there an event that is a catalyst for all the other events? Would changing one small event in the plot change the entire story?
- ✓ What events do you infer as a reader? How does that help or hurt the story?
- ✓ What is one part of the plot that influences the entire story?

Your Thoughts

Review your plot diagram. Based on what you observe, write an analysis of the plot. The steps below will help you get started.

Step 1: Identify what you'll be writing about.

For example: *I am analyzing the plot of the short film "Mike's New Car."*

I am analyzing the plot of:

Step 2: Choose a topic. Use "Questions about Plot" to focus your topic.

For example: *I am considering the following question: How does the story change after the climax?*

I am considering the following question(s):

Step 3: What position will you be taking? What points will you be arguing or sharing with your reader?

For example: *I'm taking the position that through the events of the plot, Mike learns that he probably shouldn't have purchased a new sports car.*

I am taking the position that:

Step 4: Combine Steps 1 – 3 into a thesis (or "big idea") statement.

Remove "I" or any first person pronouns.

Think about the main ideas you want to share as you write the sentence.

For example: *The plot of the short film "Mike's New Car" shows how a purchase can be a big mistake.*

Your thesis or "big idea" statement:

Expanding Your Thoughts

Now that you have an idea of what your focus will be. You need evidence.

Use the graphic organizer below to collect it. You can add more evidence if you like.

Your claim/ thesis or "big idea" statement:

(evidence) I know this because of this plot event:



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

(evidence) This plot event also supports my claim:



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

In conclusion:

Expanding Your Thoughts

Example:
Reflection Outline
Part 2

Here is an example of a completed graphic organizer.

Your claim/ thesis or "big idea" statement:

The plot of the short film "Mike's New Car" shows how a purchase can be a big mistake.

(evidence) I know this because of this plot event:

Mike doesn't know what all the buttons and dials mean.



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

This results in Sully and Mike being thrown around the inside of the car. If Mike understood how the car worked, this wouldn't have happened.

(evidence) This plot event also supports my claim:

When Mike is finally in the car by himself, he goes the wrong way and crashes his new car.



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

Even though Sully did his share of pressing buttons, when Mike is in the car alone, he still cannot manage the car.

In conclusion:

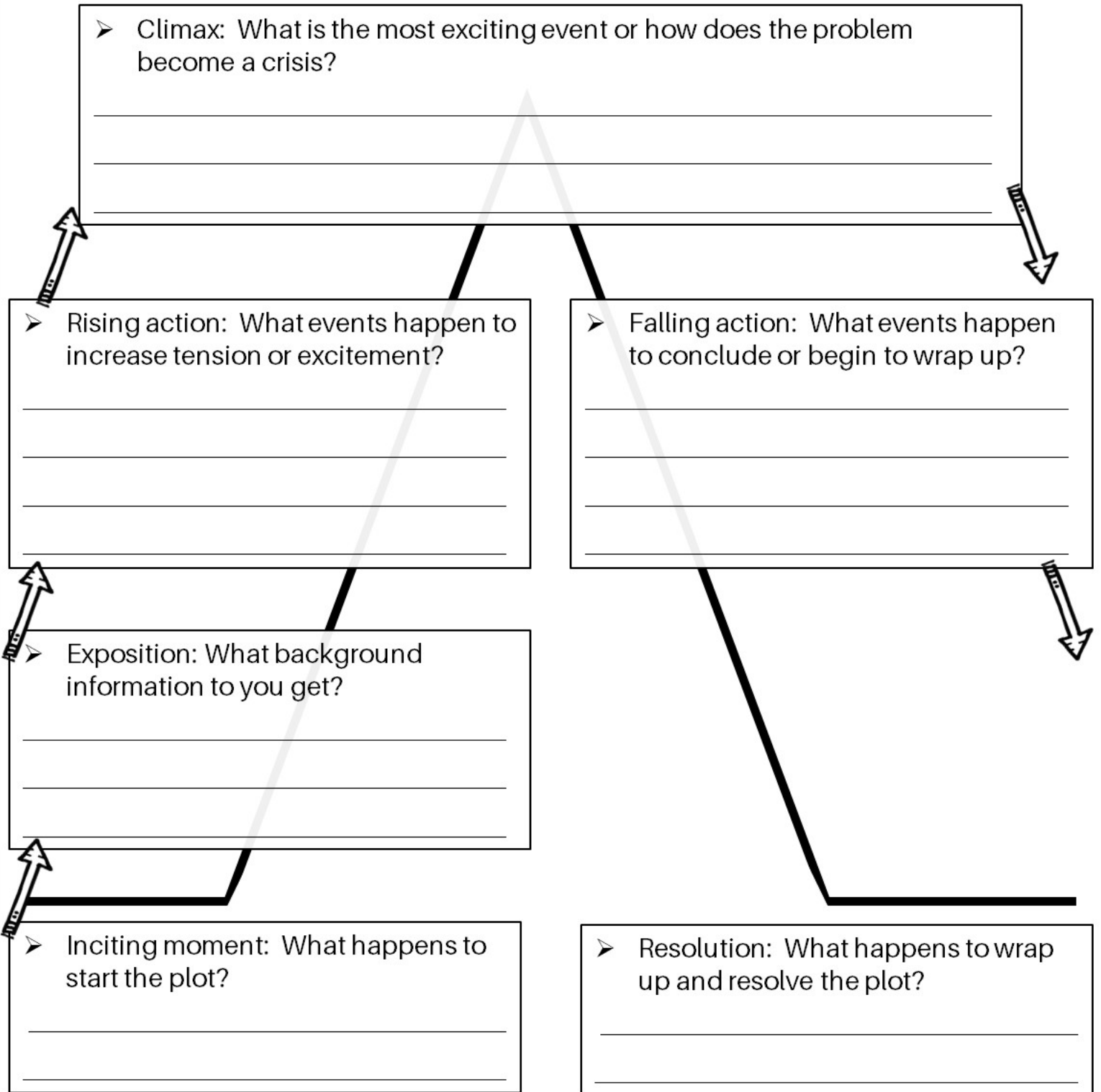
Mike loves the idea of a fancy and fast car, but his new purchase is a mistake. The car has too many buttons and dials for him to understand. When he is alone in the car, he crashes it by going in the wrong direction. Clearly, Mike should have kept his old car.

Analyze the Plot

Analysis #2

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the plot.

Notice that sometimes the events of the plot happen quickly.



Your Thoughts

Review your plot diagram. Based on what you observe, write an analysis of the plot. The steps below will help you get started.

Step 1: Identify what you'll be writing about.

I am analyzing the plot of:

Step 2: Choose a topic. Use "Questions about Plot" to focus your topic.

I am considering the following question(s):

Step 3: What position will you be taking? What points will you be arguing or sharing with your reader?

I am taking the position that:

Step 4: Combine Steps 1 - 3 into a thesis, claim, or "big idea" statement.

Remove "I" or any first person pronouns.

Think about the main ideas you want to share as you write the sentence.

Your thesis or "big idea" statement:

Expanding Your Thoughts

Now that you have an idea of what your focus will be. You need evidence.

Use the graphic organizer below to collect it. You can add more evidence if you like.

Your claim/ thesis or "big idea" statement:

(evidence) I know this because of this plot event:



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

(evidence) This plot event also supports my claim:



(explain what the evidence means) This plot event means:

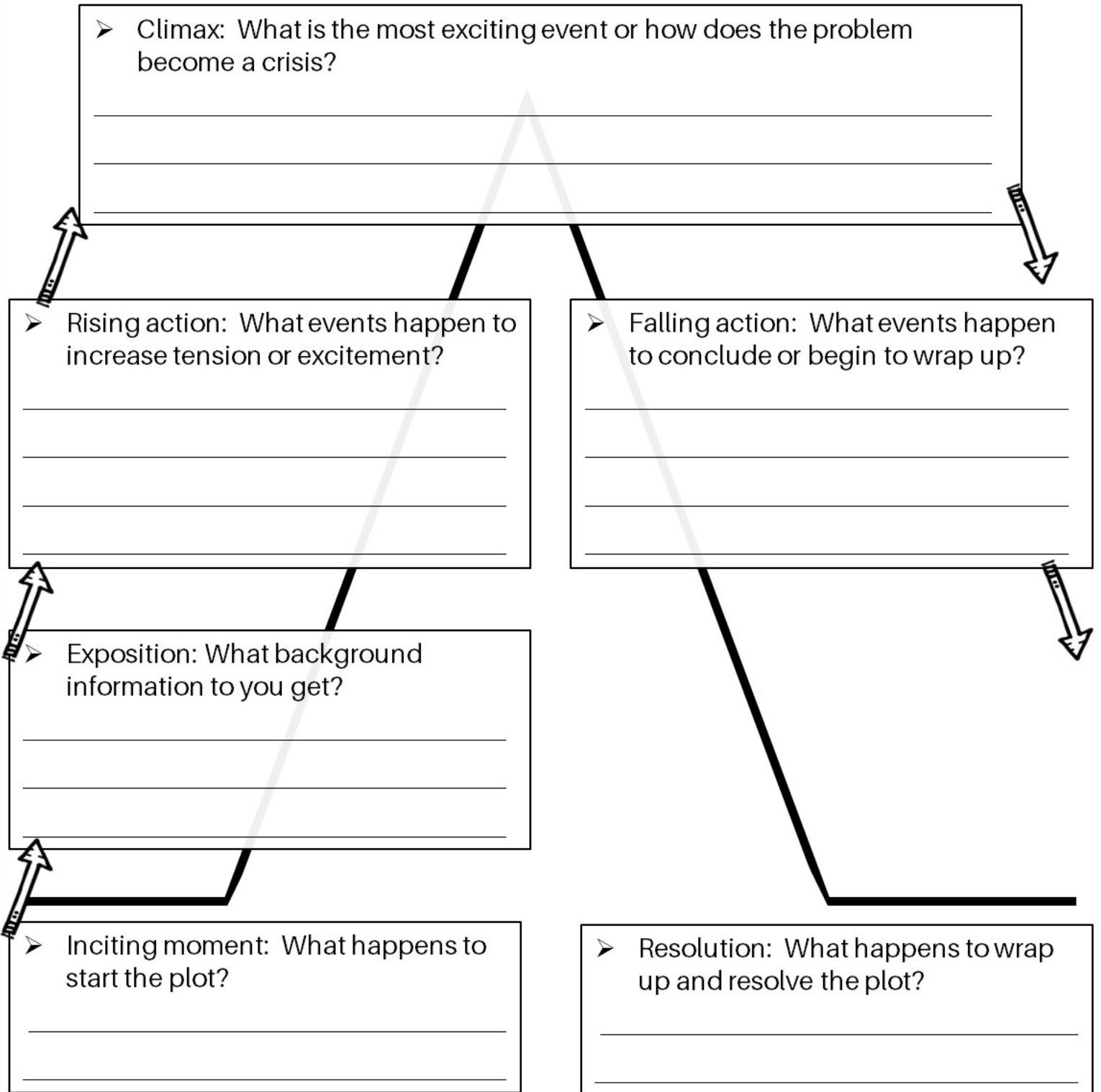
In conclusion:

Analyze the Plot

Analysis #3

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the plot.

Notice that sometimes the events of the plot happen quickly.



Your Thoughts

Analysis #3

Review your plot diagram. Based on what you observe, analyze the plot.

I am analyzing the plot of:

I am considering the following question(s):

My claim/ thesis/ "big idea":

My evidence:

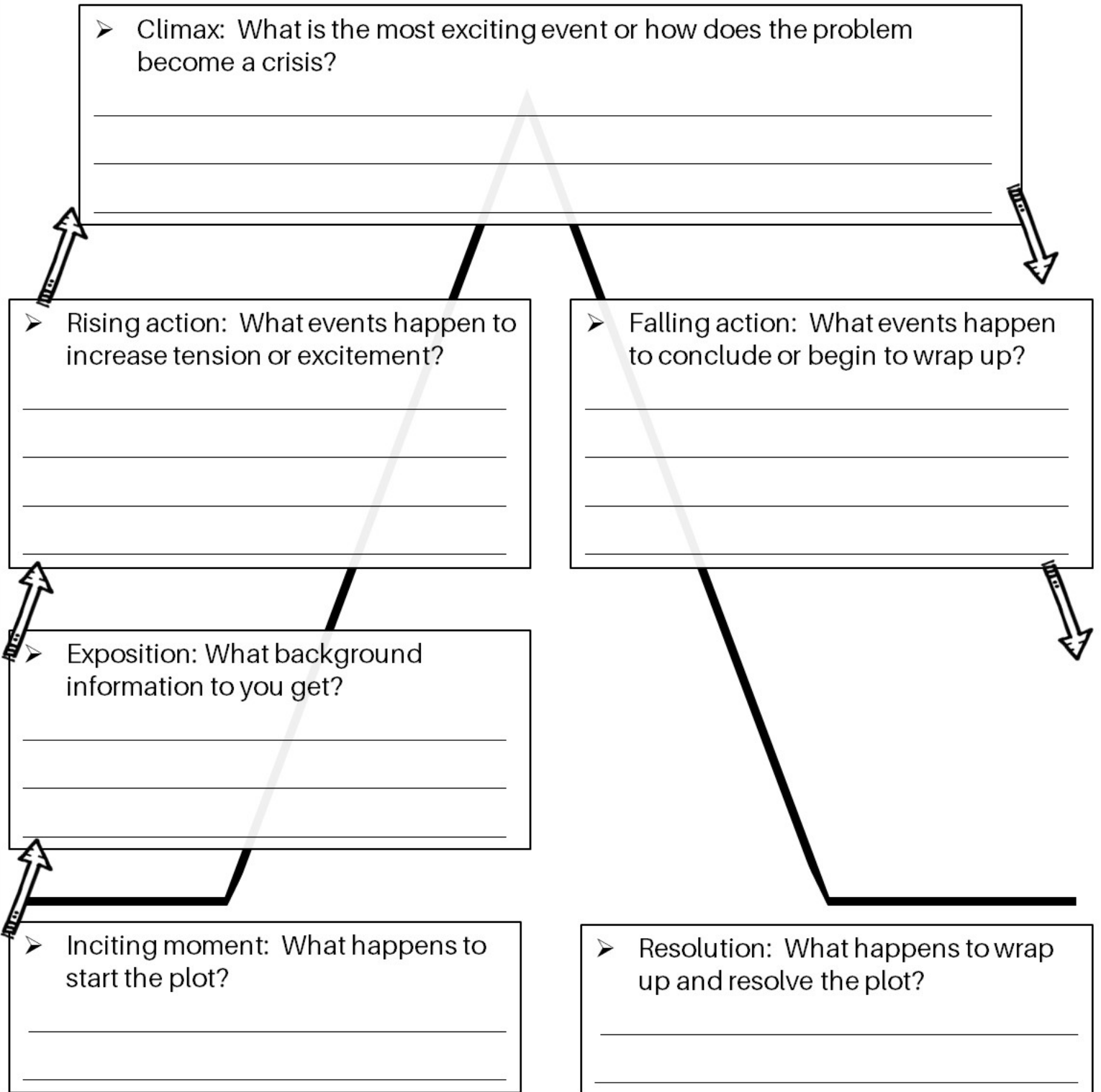
Write a short draft of your plot analysis here: _____

Analyze the Plot

Analysis #4

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the plot.

Notice that sometimes the events of the plot happen quickly.



Your Thoughts

Analysis #4

Review your plot diagram. Based on what you observe, analyze the plot.

I am analyzing the plot of:

I am considering the following question(s):

My claim/ thesis/ "big idea":

My evidence:

Write a short draft of your plot analysis here: _____

Analyze the Plot

Sketch it out

When you read a text, it is helpful to visualize the plot events.

Use this graphic organizer to sketch out the major plot events. Add "text support" below the slides to explain or identify page numbers.

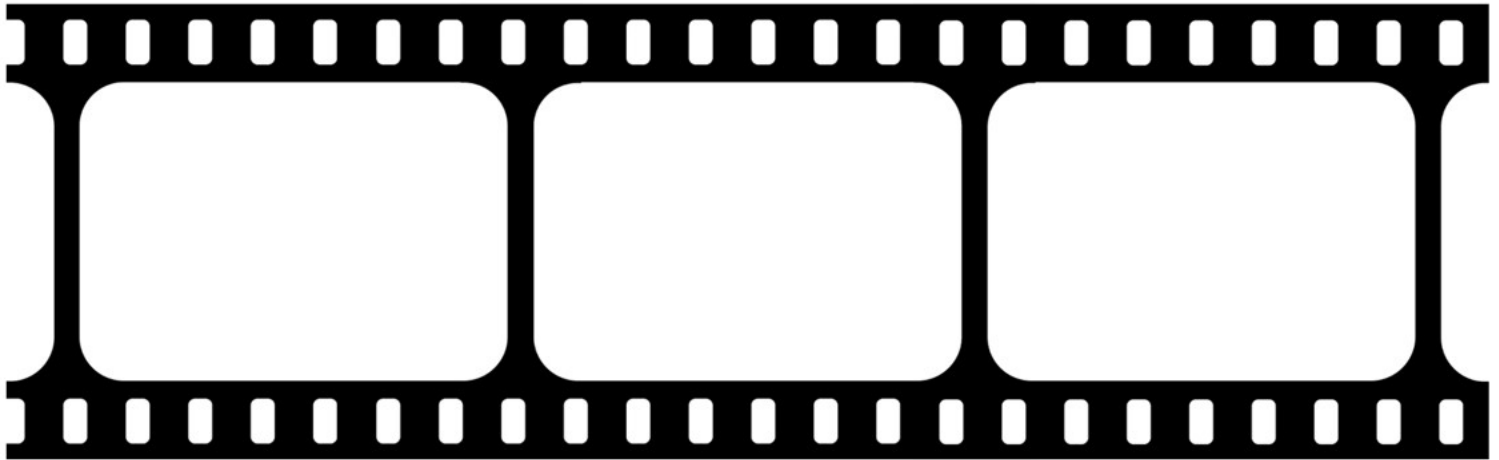
Inciting moment



Exposition



Rising action



Text support: _____

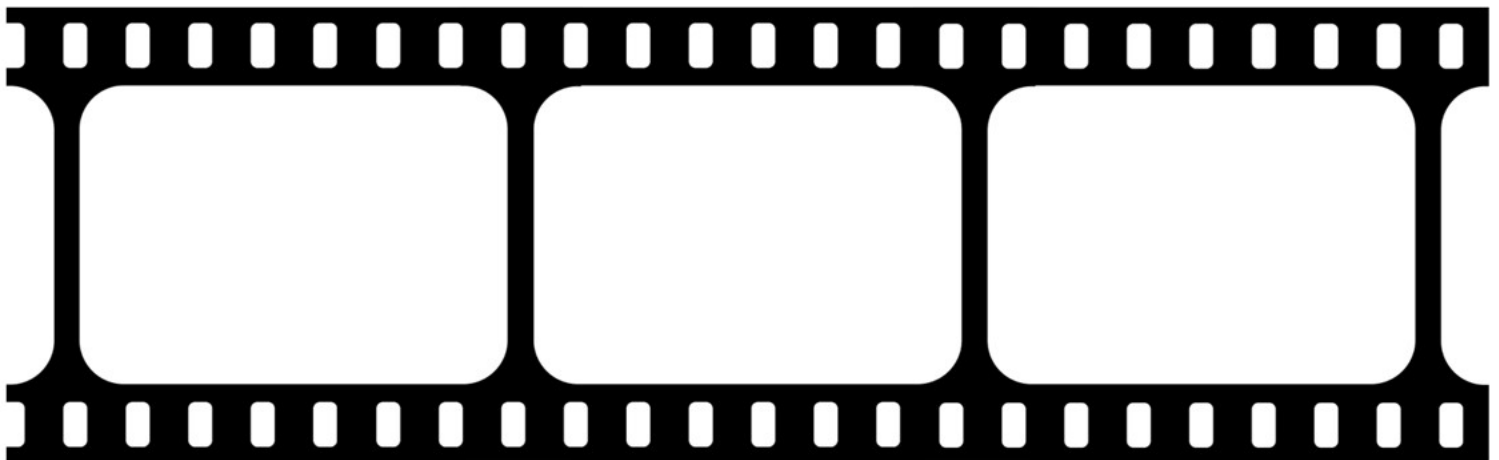
Climax



Falling Action



Resolution



Text support: _____

What do you think?

Look over the plot analysis activities you've completed. Respond to the following questions.

1. What part of plot analysis is the easiest for you? Why?

2. What part of plot analysis is the most difficult to analyze? Why?

3. What new insight did you gain about the importance of plot?

4. Did analyzing the plot of a short film help you better understand it?

5. How can analyzing the plot help you understand the text better?

Circle one. I would rate my plot analysis abilities as:

