**Plot Diagram Elements**

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***Plot*—**This is the literary element that describes the structure of the story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.

***Conflict*—**a struggle between opposing forces that drives the action of the story.

**Exposition** –The introduction of the characters and basic situation. The setting, characters, and main conflicts are introduced to the reader; this is

the beginning of a novel or story and may be short or long, but is always flat (little

action or emotion).

**Rising Action -** the round characters are developed, **the conflicts are increased** and

acted out in many ways, motives are introduced, things happen; generally, the

major part of a novel or story.

**Climax -** **the peak of action in the story** in which the **major conflicts erupt** in some

kind of final showdown (fight, argument, violent or physical action, very tense

emotional moment...); at the end of the climax, the "winner" will be clear (there is

not always a winner!). This is the point in the story where **something CHANGES.**

**Falling Action -** what events immediately follow the climax; a kind of "cleaning

up." The conflict decreases.

**Resolution/Denouement –** This is the outcome of the conflict where everything ends; the reader may have some **sense of "closure**" or may be asked to think about what might come next; in fairy tales, the Happy Ending; in some novels, you will read about the characters many years later.