

Name: _____

Directions: As a group, discuss plot structure and identify details from your novel's plot points. This should involve discussion. You may want to put post-it notes in the various sections of your book.

“Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations.” — Ray Bradbury, Zen in the Art of Writing

Plot element	Where this occurs in my novel. Include page ____ through ____
<p><u>Exposition:</u> setting the scene. The writer introduces the characters and setting, providing description and background.</p>	
<p><u>Inciting Incident:</u> something happens to begin the action. A single event usually signals the beginning of the main conflict. The inciting incident is sometimes called 'the complication'.</p>	
<p><u>Rising Action:</u> the story builds and gets more exciting.</p>	
<p><u>Climax:</u> the moment of greatest tension in a story. This is often the most exciting event. It is the event that the rising action builds up to and that the falling action follows.</p>	

Falling Action:

events happen as a result of the climax and we know that the story will soon end.

Resolution:

the character solves the main problem/conflict or someone solves it for him or her.

Dénouement:

(a French term, pronounced: day-noo-moh) the ending. At this point, any remaining secrets, questions or mysteries which remain after the resolution are solved by the characters or explained by the author. Sometimes the author leaves us to think about the THEME or future possibilities for the characters.

You can think of the dénouement as the opposite of the exposition: instead of getting ready to tell us the story by introducing the setting and characters, the author is getting ready to end it with a final explanation of what actually happened and how the characters think or feel about it. This can be the most difficult part of the plot to

identify, as it is often very closely tied to the resolution.	
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Just for fun: Is there a Peripeteia? An unexpected turn of events.