

Class 4: Building a Strong Plot

Slide 1: Welcome

Teacher Notes

- Welcome students to the class.
- Introduce yourself.
- Explain to them that they will be creating the plot for their stories.

Sample script: Hello guys, welcome to our fourth class. Today we will begin to work on building your story plot.

Slide 2

Teacher Notes

- Present the PPT, or have a student read it.
- Explain to the students the importance of the plot in a story.

Sample script: Today, we will work on the plot.

Without a plot there is no story.

But does anyone know what a plot is?

Slide 3: What is a plot?

Teacher Notes

- Explain the definition of plot, go over or have a student read the slide.
- Explain how a story is steered by the plot.

Sample Script: Let's have a volunteer read the slide.....The plot is probably the most important part of a story. While the setting talks about where, the plot is about the

What. It is the actual content, the ups and downs within every story.

Slide 4: Every Great Story has 3 main parts

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide to explain the usual path of a general story.
- Explain the importance of having a strong plot to build a story on.
- Have students give examples using their favorite stories/movies.

Sample Script: As you can see, a typical story has 3 parts. Beginning, Middle, and End.

The beginning is usually about introducing the setting, and the characters to bring the reader in, and then raise a challenge or a problem. The middle is the actual struggle or fight against the problem, and then the End, about the consequences and results of the struggle.

Let's get a few examples about plot in your favorite stories! Let me use Lord of the Rings as an example: The Beginning could be "The evil ring was discovered- a group of heroes was formed to return the ring"- Middle: they faced all sorts of challenges and adventures on the way- Ending, they finally managed to return the ring- everyone went back to their regular lives. Ok, let's go!

Slide 5: Stories rise and fall like a mountain! (Handout worksheet)

Teacher Notes

- Explain how a story is similar to a Story Mountain.
- Explain the definition of Climax.
- Handout the work sheet.

Sample Script: Ok class, this is what we call a Story Mountain. The story usually starts from the bottom of the mountain and slowly rising. The higher it goes the more exciting the story is, as it closes in on the Climax. Which is the most exciting part of the movie, and as the issue gets solved, it began to decline lower and lower down on the mountain. Let's take a couple of minutes to look over the worksheet. Let me know if you have any questions. Feel free to start filling it out through the rest of the class!

Slide 6: Heart of the Story: Conflict

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide.
- Explain to the students that a conflict really doesn't have to be between 2 people or 2 groups of people. I can literally be anything.
- Remind students exactly how important creativity is!

Sample Script: Hello class, I would like to remind you to be creative! Let's get a volunteer to go over the slide!.....

Yes, the conflict could be between the protagonist vs anyone or anything! Please take a few minutes to complete your worksheet!

Slide 7: What Problem does your main character face?

Teacher Notes

- Have the students write a couple sentences or a paragraph to answer this question about their stories.

Sample Script: Ok, lets write a few sentences about the problem your character will be facing in the story. Feel free to use the worksheet to help you!

Slide 8: Build your story mountain

Teacher Notes:

- Go over the Example Starter.
- Have the students write down different stages of their story.
- Have the student imagine a story moutain as they go over the events in their stories.
- Let the students know this is only a rough idea of the story, which they could make changes to in the future, so let loose and create!

Sample Script: Let me give you guys an example as to how to build your story mountain. "Reads slide". Simply use your work sheet, and write down different stages of your story! Go ahead and do it, without worrying too much, because we could always go back and make adjustments to it later. Let's write an example of your story similar to this example!

Slide 9: Discussion

Teacher Notes:

- Invite students to share their Story Climax.
- Ask students which one they liked the most?!

Sample Script: Ok everyone, put down your pens and pencils, it is time to share your climax with the class! No beginning or end needed, just the climax! For example in the lord of the rings, the climax could be that the enemy appeared to be too many and powerful, which seemed impossible to overcome. Lets start from the left! ..... (After the

presentations) which one or ones did you like the most? (Have a vote) think about why you like it!

Slide 10: Homework

Teacher Notes:

- **Go over the homework.**

Sample Script: For homework! Complete your worksheet if you haven't done it!
Write a paragraph describing your story's main conflict and resolution!
Remember to bring it to the next class! You will need it to begin writing your first draft!