

### Plot Analysis and Structure

Most stories have the following parts: (1) exposition, (2) rising action, (3) climax, (4) falling action, and (5) resolution. *Standing Ground* follows this story format.

Here are some definitions:

**Exposition:** The “set-up” of the story that introduces background information of the story such as the setting, main characters, and conflicts.

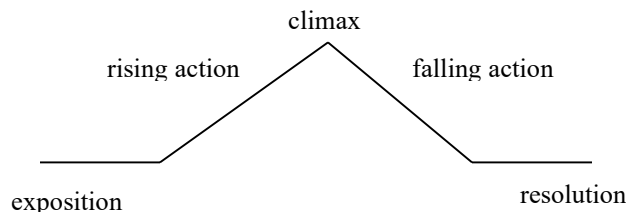
**Rising Action:** It is a series of events that move the story. Basic and secondary conflicts are presented.

**Climax:** This is the most critical point in the story. It is the turning point. Often, it is the point at which things change from going badly for the characters to going well.

**Falling Action:** The point at which the conflicts have unraveled. A moment of final suspense may occur. The final outcome may still be in doubt.

**Resolution:** The main character or characters are in a better situation. The conflict is gone or, for the most part, has been resolved.

### Story Pyramid



The above story pyramid is used to show a story’s plot and how the action moves. Most stories fit into this story pyramid, but some stories are more complicated and may not follow this pyramid exactly. *Standing Ground* does follow this model.

Suggestion:

Obviously, during the reading of *Standing Ground* in the classroom, the teacher will be discussing plot and the different parts of the book that relate to the “Story Pyramid”.

Upon completion of the book, the teacher can divide the class into groups of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. Each group can have the following questions to answer:

1. List the most important action and characters in your part of the story pyramid.
2. Write a three sentence summary for your section.
3. Compare and contrast your part of the story to another part of the Story Pyramid. How are they the same? How are they different?
4. Is there anything that you would change in your part of the plot that could move the story in a different direction or make it more interesting?
5. Why is it important to understand both plot and the “Story Pyramid”?

Using questioning strategies that have been presented in other free online exercises, the teacher can guide each group in the sharing of their answers.