

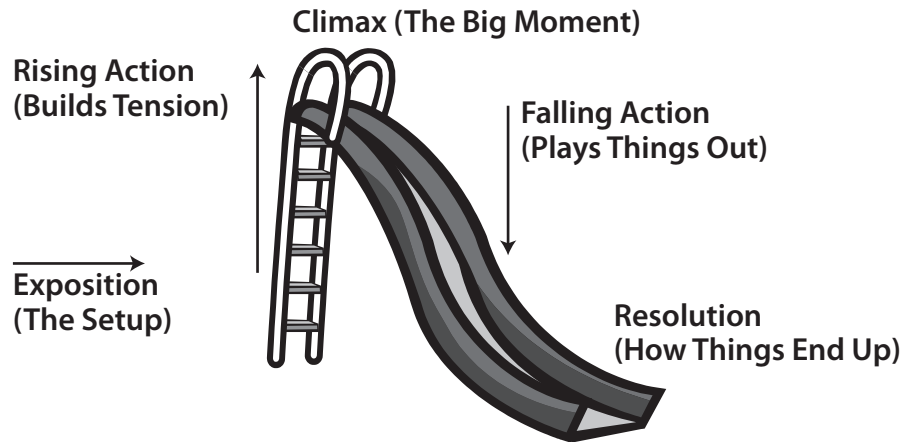
Plot

L.C.L.3

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Plot is everything that happens in the story. Problems, or **conflicts**, make the plot more interesting as events build on each other.

Plots have **structure**—a beginning, a middle, and an end. The picture below shows the stages of the plot in the story of Kyra, a preschooler who is nervous about going down the big slide.



Example

What is Jerusha's main conflict in the excerpt from *Daddy-Long-Legs*?

- (A) fearing she will never have a real home
- (B) wanting a better life for herself
- (C) fighting with the 11 orphans she cares for
- (D) trying to please Mrs. Lippett

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(A) The author calls Jerusha *curious* and *wistful*, not *afraid*. She does not seem scared about a real home.

(B) Throughout the passage, we see that Jerusha is unhappy and dreams of a better life. This is her main problem.

(C) It makes Jerusha tired to take care of so many children. But there is no evidence that she fights with them.

(D) Mrs. Lippett sounds like she is not very nice. But trying to please her is not what pushes Jerusha, and the plot, forward.



Connections People often think of conflict as a problem between two people. But some conflicts are internal, or inside the character. Can you think of a time when you had an internal conflict: something that you had to struggle with yourself about? What was the problem? How did you solve it?