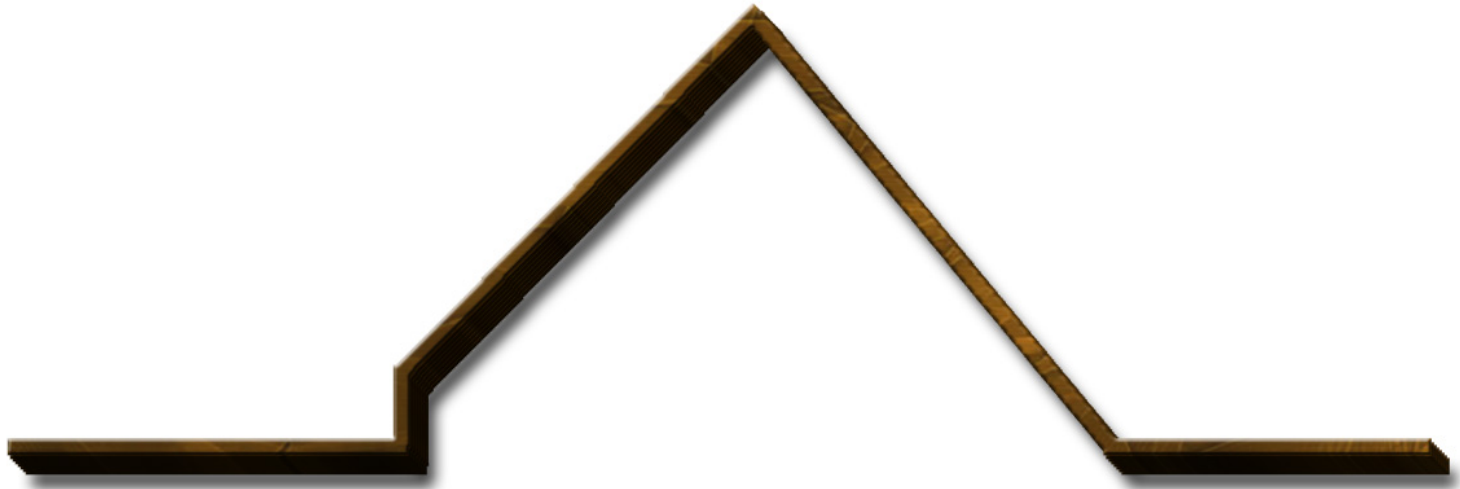




ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY

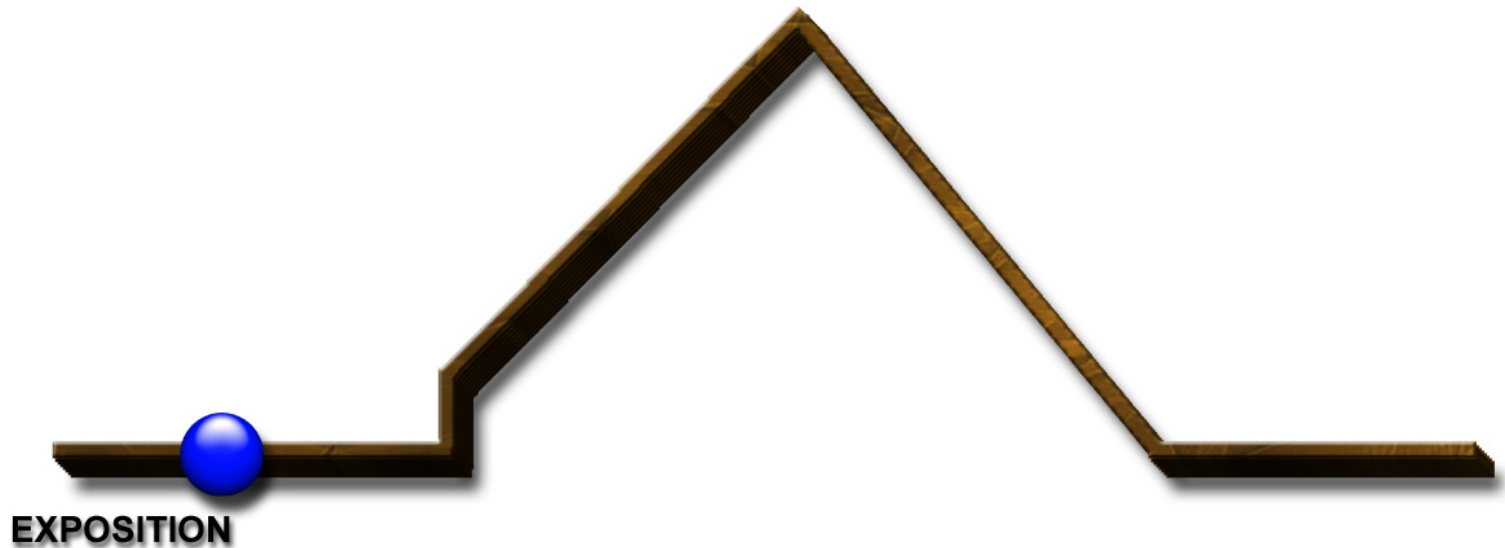
PLOT

All stories have a plot, no matter how basic. Upon study, you can see the following plot elements in any story form.



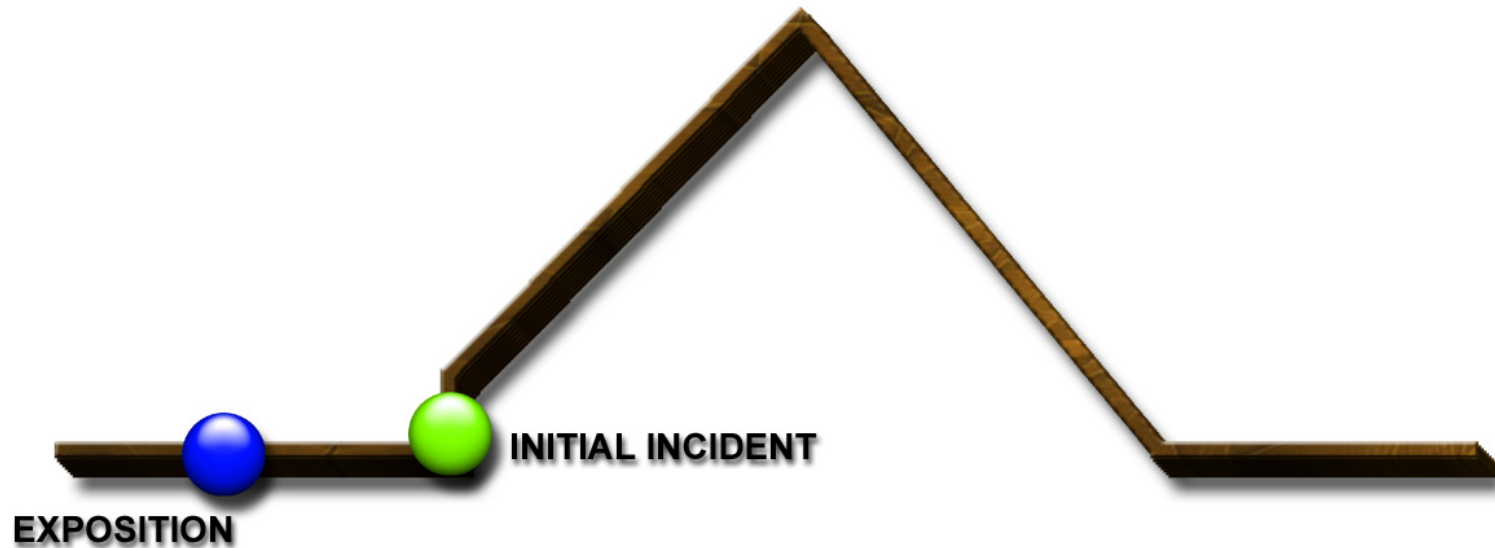
PLOT - Exposition

Exposition sets the time, place and conditions under which the story occurs, introduces the characters, informs the reader of any preceding action and gives any required information.



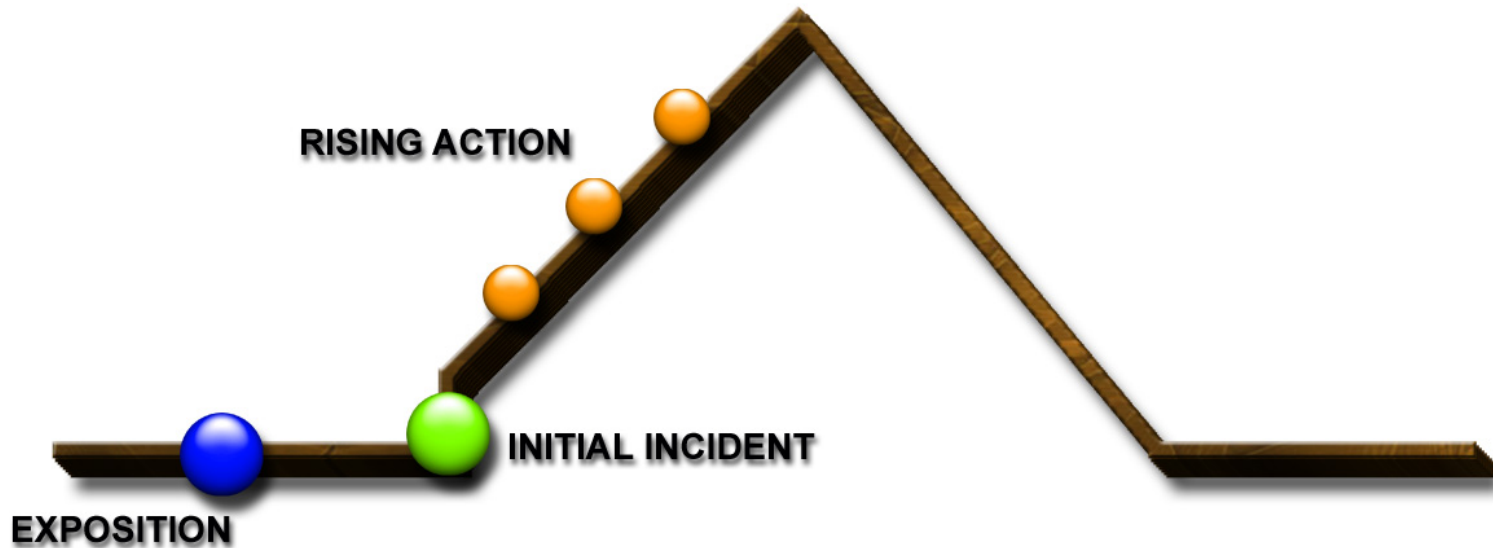
PLOT - Initial Incident

Something between characters or because of an event, causes a problem. This kicks off the action of the plot.



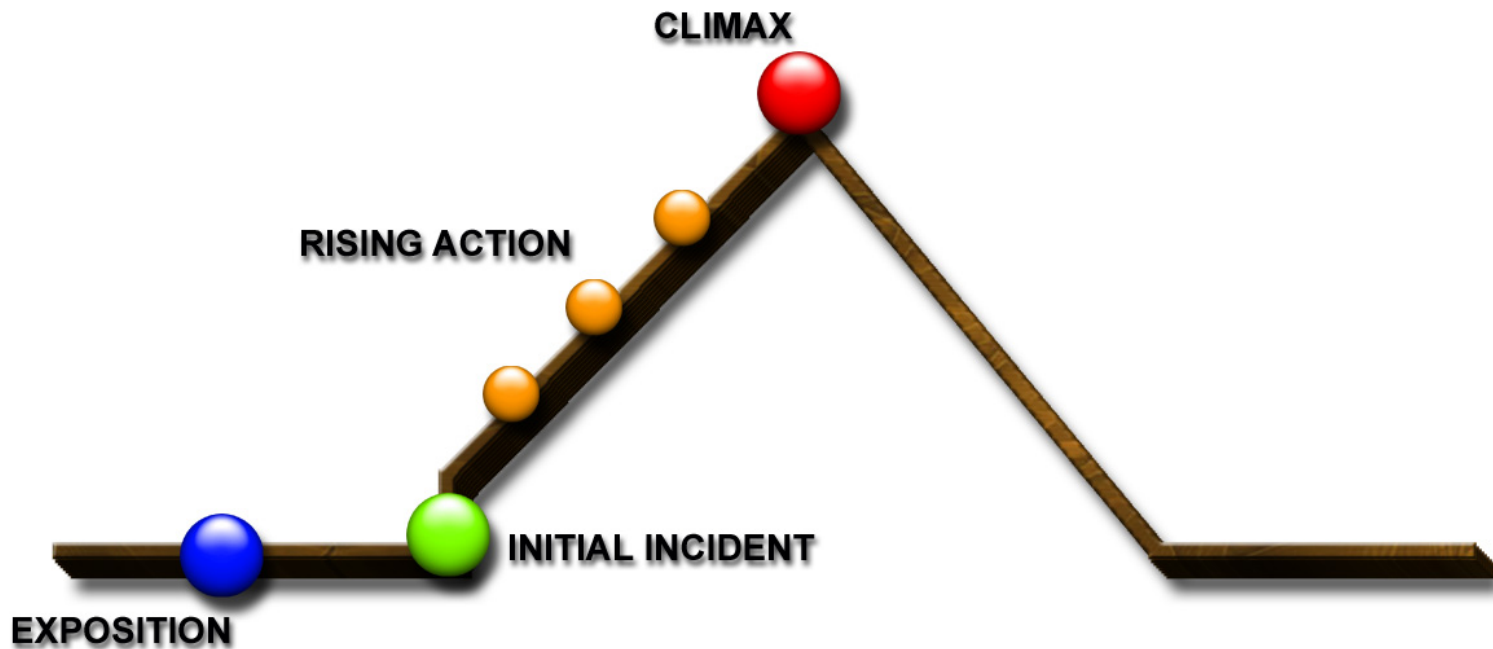
PLOT - Rising Action

The struggle may be physical, mental, or moral. The main character (protagonist) has a certain motivation. Obstacles or forces arise that try to keep him from achieving his goal. A conflict develops and grows. (*We'll look at types of conflict in a bit*)



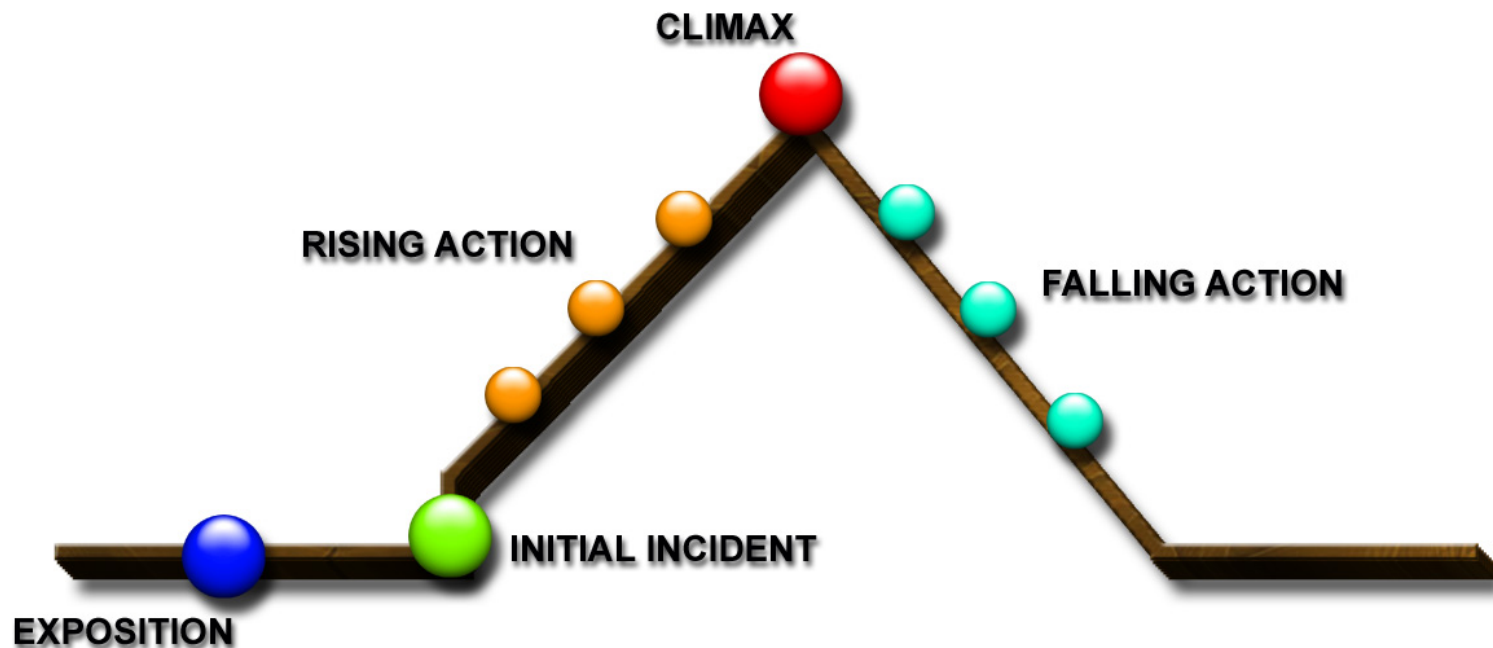
PLOT - Climax

The highest point of the struggle is a crisis and is usually followed very quickly by a turning point or climax, at which point there is no going back... and the reader finds out how the story will end.



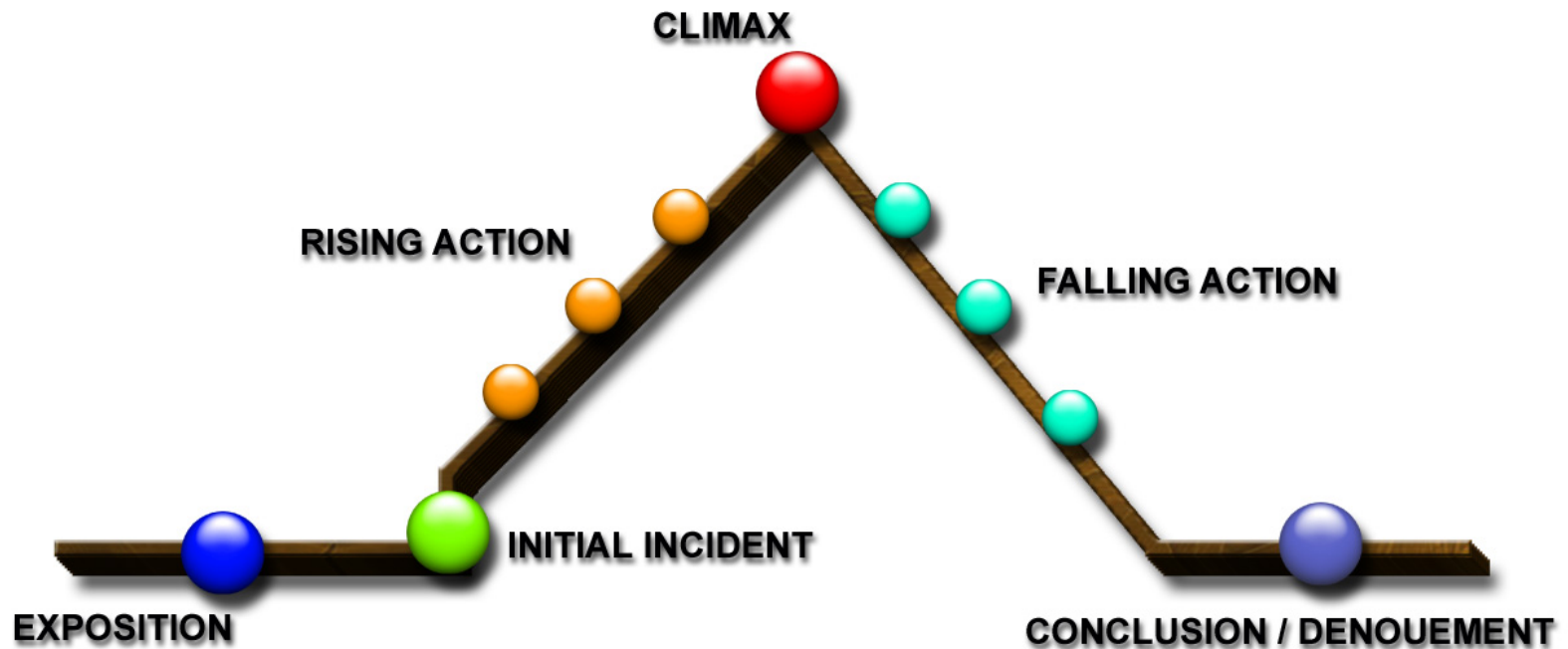
PLOT - Falling Action

This is the final action, if any, after the climax... or it's the ending of the story. It may or may not be separate from the conclusion



PLOT - Conclusion / Denouement

Here the struggle is resolved, the complications are explained, and events are unravelled. All loose ends are tied up here.



**The plot of a story is like a road map for a journey.
The immature reader reads chiefly for plot alone; the
mature reader reads for whatever revelations about
life or character are presented via the plot.**



PLOT

Every story needs some action, but in a good story, it must be worthwhile action.

Plot is best studied in terms of its function, or the relationship of each incident to the meaning of the story.



PLOT

- Plot can have two time lines:

Chronology: The order of events in the story are reconstructed in the order they happened.

(ie: Most film and television)

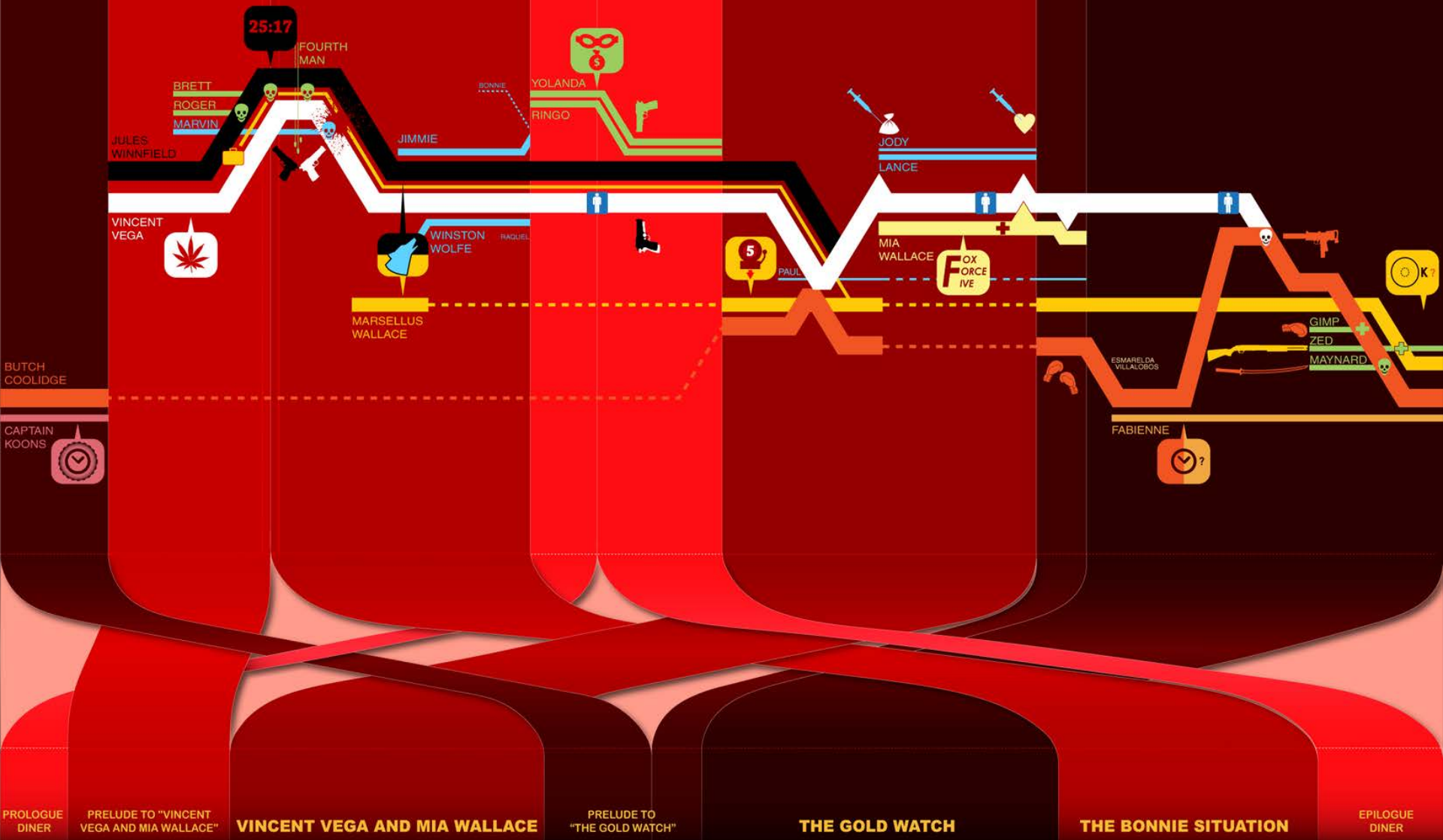




Narrative Time:
The order of events as
the story chooses to
sequence them.

(ie: *Memento* /
Pulp Fiction)

PULP FICTION



PLOT & CONFLICT!



- About that conflict thing you mentioned....

What's all that about?

PLOT - C O N F L I C T !

There are 5 types of conflict. A variation or combination of these will be in every story, show, or film you'll ever encounter.

FIVE

1. Man vs Man

A protagonist faces one or more human antagonists.




Also Man vs Man



And, it doesn't have to be fair.....





2. Man vs Society

A broader version of Man vs Man. Here a protagonist is fighting the entire system.

The system usually wins pre 1990s. Loses post-1990s.

3. Man vs Nature

Man struggles against the natural world... often in the form of extreme weather or terrain.



4. Man vs Himself

Inner struggles, battles of the will, psychological trauma, etc.... all are played out under this category. In the performing arts (film, theatre), this is the hardest to portray well.

It can be shown as part of a larger conflict (ie: A woman overcomes a fear of heights and chases her enemy up a scaffold)





5. Man vs God

(The Fantastical /
The Supernatural)

Man struggles against God, either literally or against divine will, fate, or destiny. Many classic Greek stories contain this form of conflict. (Also covers mythical monsters etc.)

POP QUIZ!

The image features the words "POP QUIZ!" written in a thick, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style. The word "POP" is rendered in a light blue-grey color, while "QUIZ!" is in a reddish-pink color. Below the text are two horizontal lines drawn with the same brush-stroke style as the letters, one in light blue-grey and one in reddish-pink. The entire composition is set against a solid black background.

What conflict(s) are suggested
by the following images?



.DHAH.































