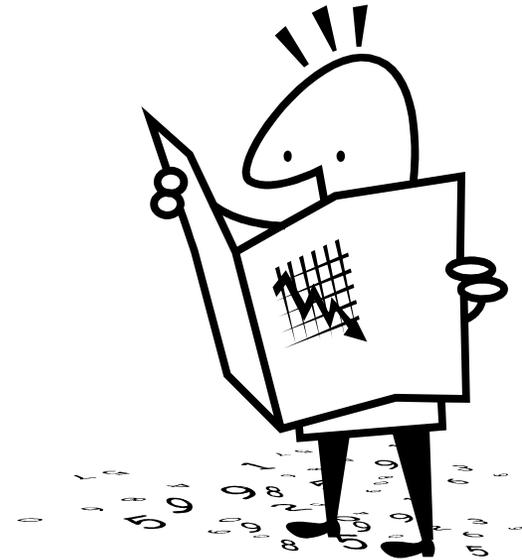


Elements of a Story



What every story needs:

- **Plot**
- **Setting**
- **Conflict**
- Theme
- Characters

What is the **setting**?

The **time** and **place** where a story happens

- **Knowing the setting helps you visualize the text.**
- **Allows you to form expectations**
Ex: If it takes place in the 1700s, there are no cars.

How to Determine the **Setting**

- The **narrator may tell you** exactly when and where the story are taking place.
- Sometimes you may have to **determine the setting based on clues.**
- **If the exact date isn't listed**, it is good enough to say something like **modern times**, in the **recent past**, in the **distant past**, in the **distant future**, etc.

Example

Jake hopped on his horse and trotted around the stables. He looked around the range from his mount and considered going on a ride through the prairie. He decided against it. Then he heard a train whistle in the distance. This was it. More settlers had arrived. Now Jake would take some of the weaker horses to the station and sell them to the new folks, who were horseless.

**When and where is this story taking place?
Explain your answer.**

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place in the past, perhaps the late 1800s, on a ranch near a train station.

Explanation

I believe this because the train whistle seems important to Jake. There are no cars and Jake is selling horses.

Review

- The setting is the **time** and **place**.
- Look for clues as to where and when the story is happening if it isn't clearly stated.
- Saying things like modern times, the recent past, the distant past will work if the date isn't clearly stated.

Practice

1. Read the passage.
2. Write the setting.
3. Explain your answer.

1

Dirk adjusted his space suit. He wasn't used to fighting aliens in zero gravity. He was more of a terrain fighter. He looked around the spaceship. Three Zorlak warriors were splattered against the wall. He pressed the communi-button. A second later a voice spoke into the cabin, "*Commander Dirk, how may I support you?*" Dirk smirked and replied, "We need someone to clean up an awful mess in here. I'm in the control chamber by the engine room."

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place on a spaceship in the distant future.

Explanation

I believe this because there is advanced technology and they are in a spaceship.

2

Orlak pulled Gorth near the fire. He wrapped his arm around him and spoke from his heart, “Orlak need mammoth fur. Orlak too cold in cave.” Gorth grunted and looked around the cave walls. Gorth remembered what it was like sleeping in a cave before he had a mammoth fur. He spoke to Orlak, “Ok, Orlak. We get you fur.” A cold wind blew through the cave

Suggested Answer

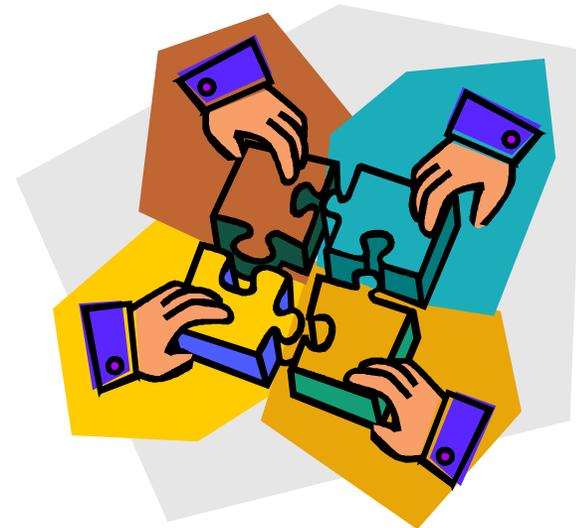
This story is taking place in the distant past in a cave.

Explanation

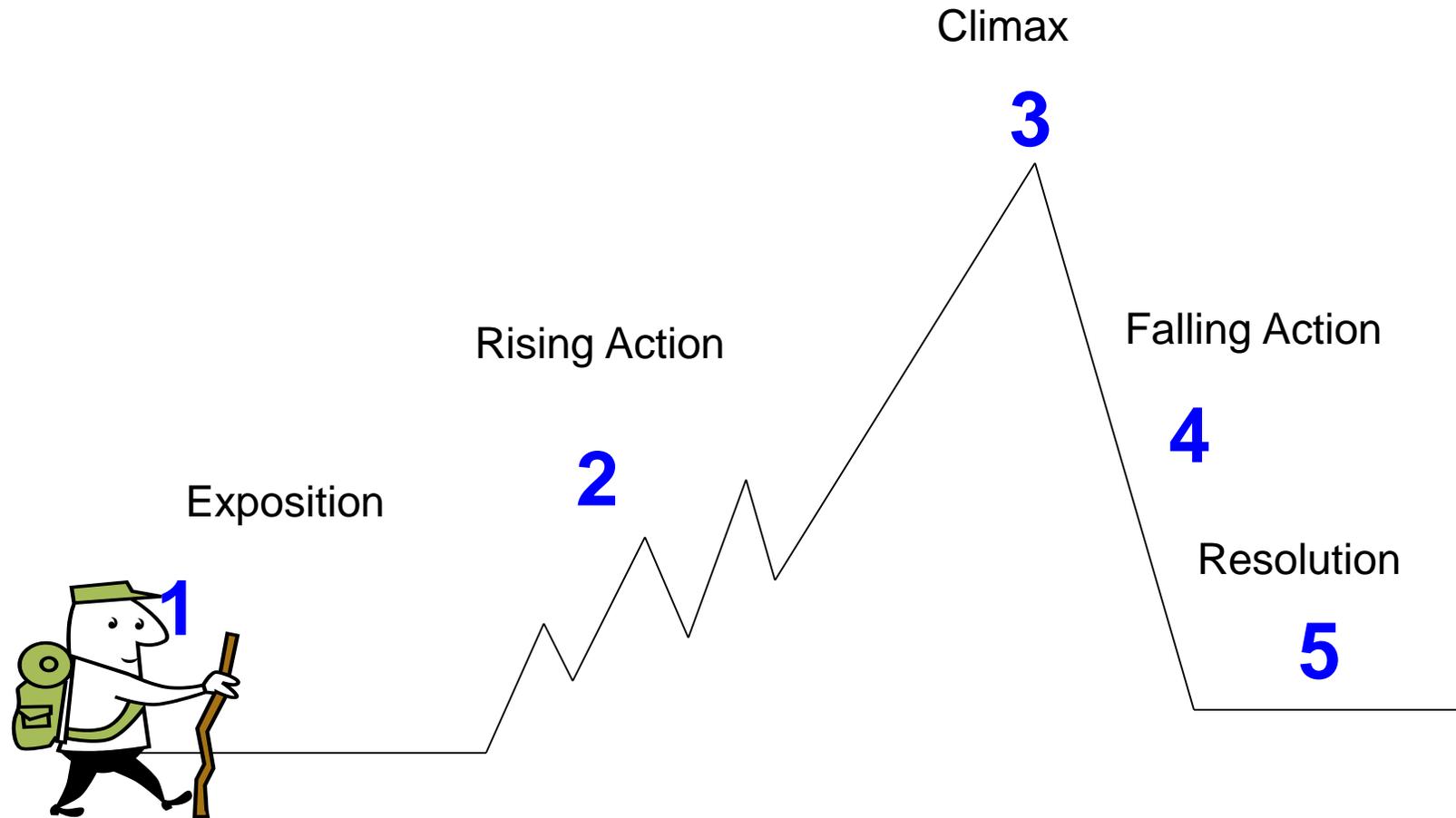
I believe this because the characters appear to be cavemen plotting to acquire mammoth furs.

What is plot?

- Plot concerns the organization of the main events of a work of fiction. Most plots will trace some process of change in which characters are caught up in a conflict that is eventually resolved.

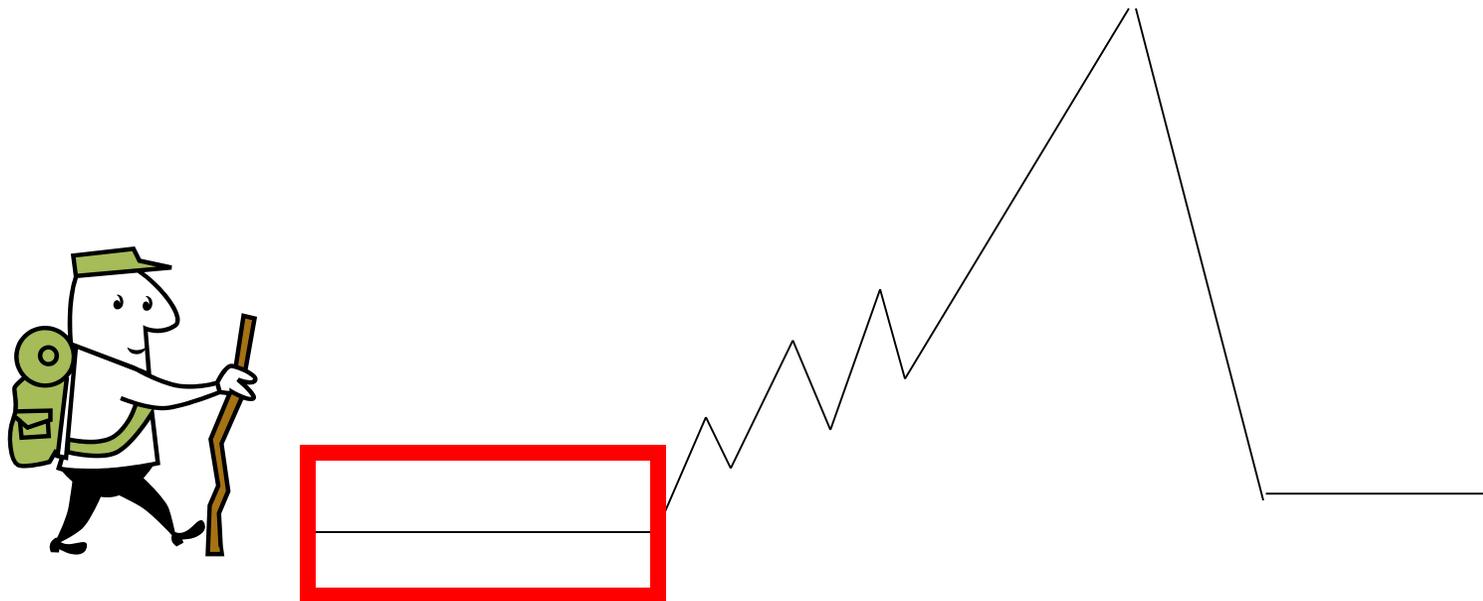


Plot Diagram



1. Exposition

- This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. This section also presents other facts necessary to understanding the story



Important Parts of the Exposition

- Setting

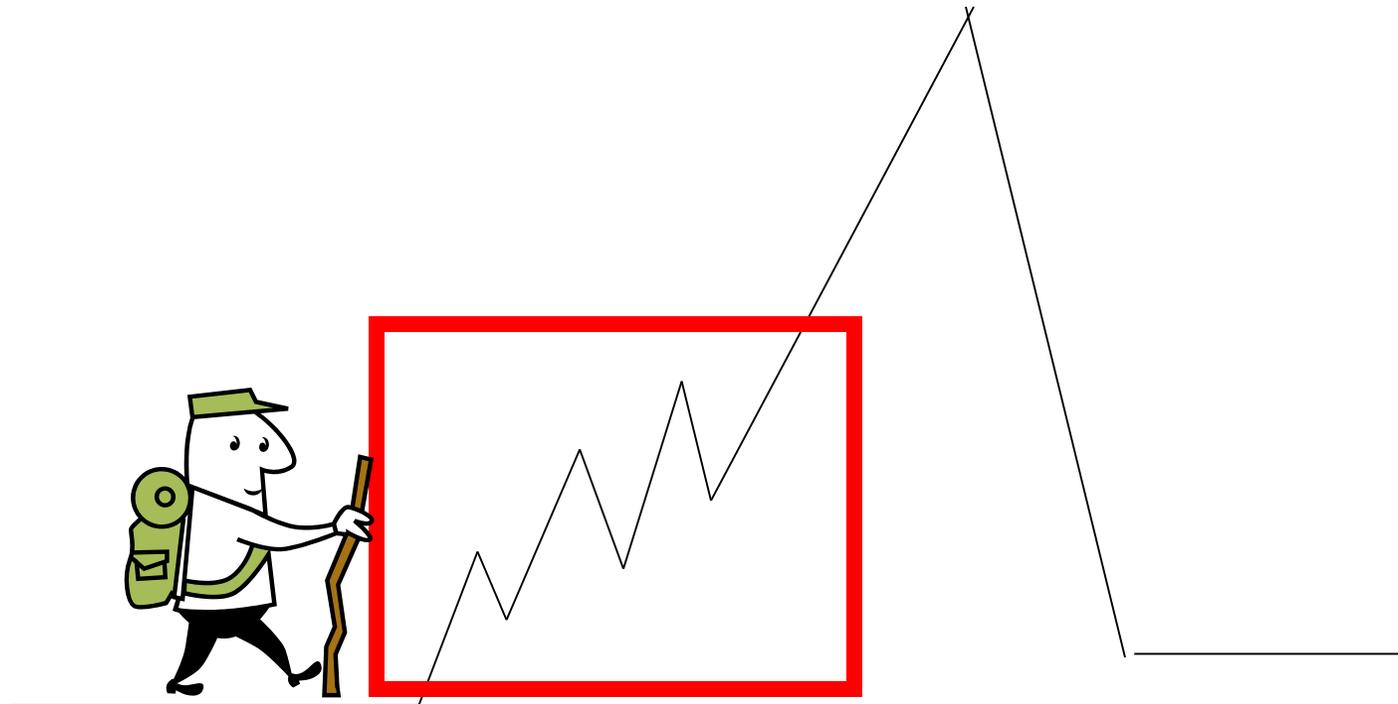
- Time
- Place

- Characters

- Protagonist: The main character; the hero
- Antagonist: The character who is in conflict with the protagonist in some way; the “bad guy”
 - Static: Character stays the same
 - Dynamic: Character changes in some way

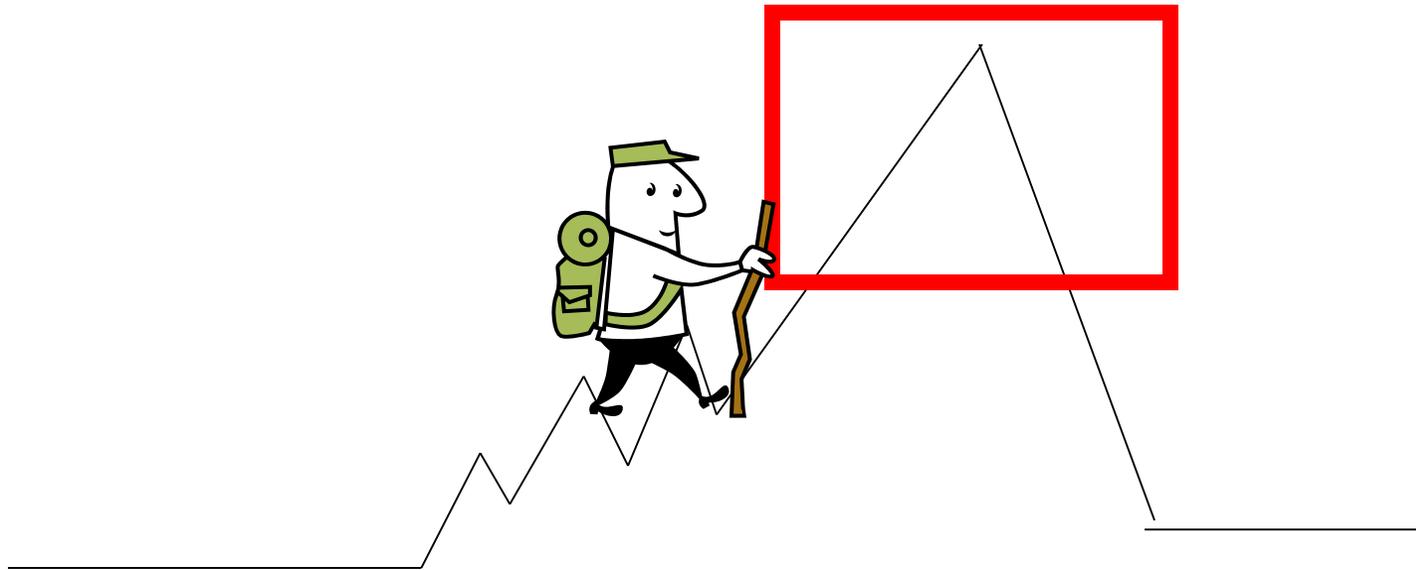
2. Rising Action

- The rising action includes all the events that lead to the climax. It also presents some type of conflict



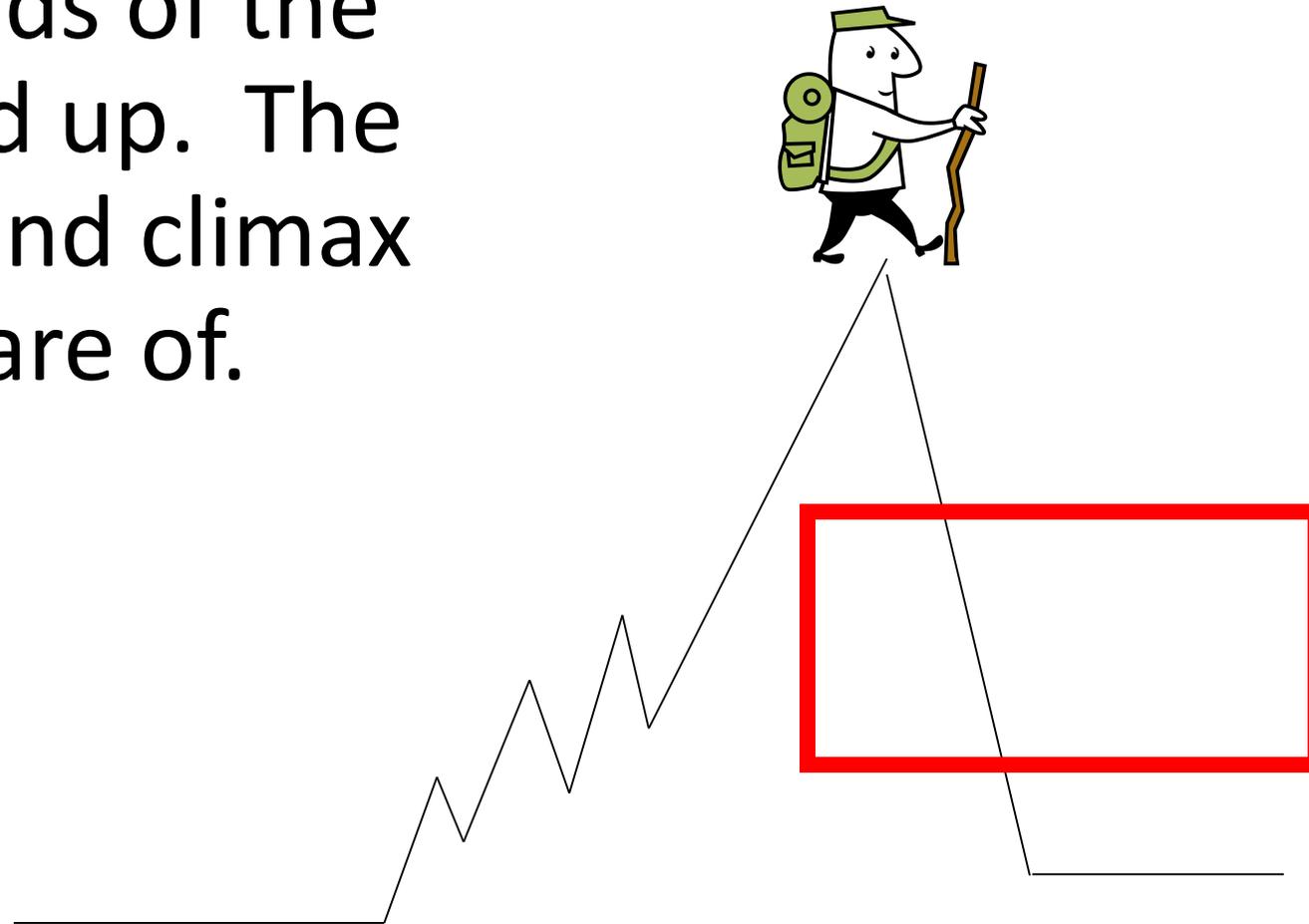
3. Climax

- The “high point”. This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way.



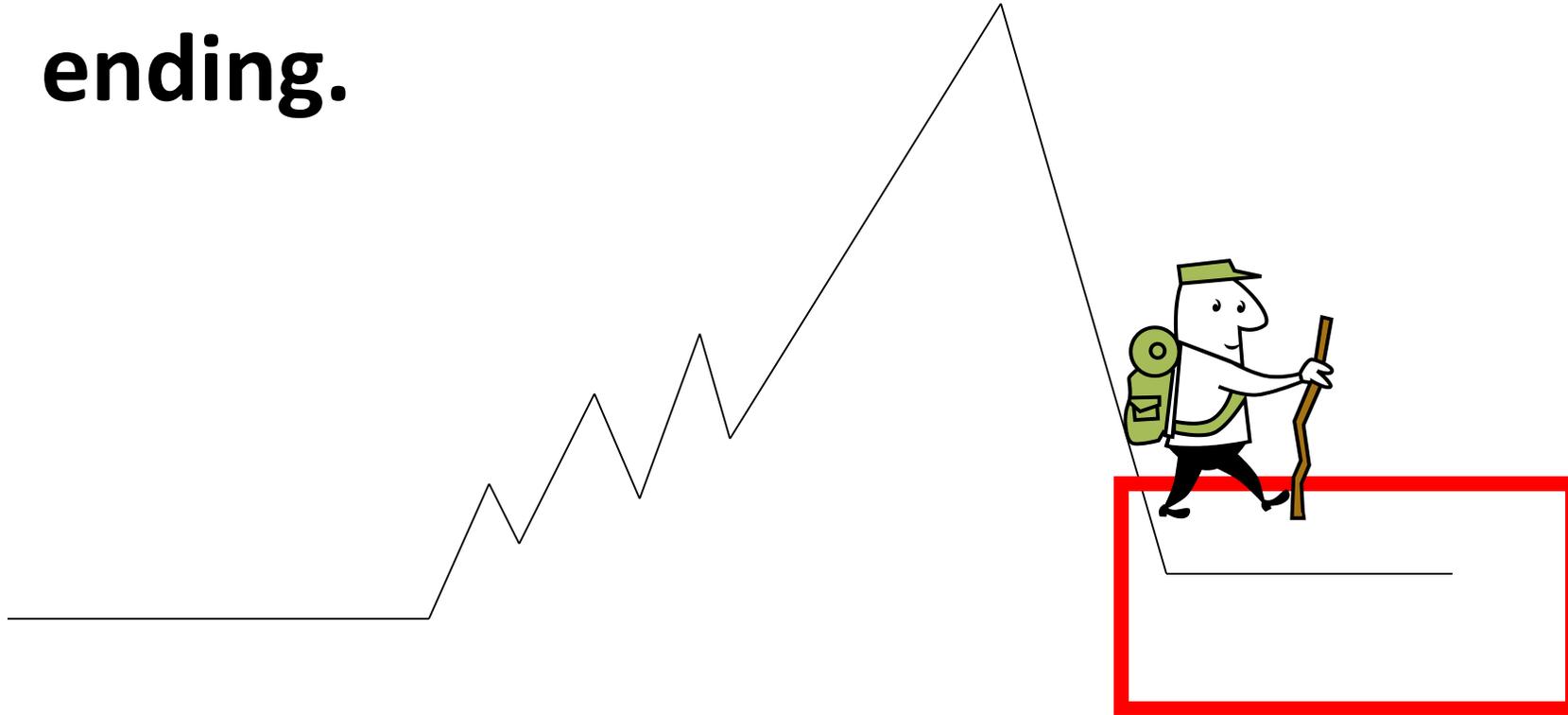
4. Falling Action

- All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict(s) and climax are taken care of.



5. Resolution

- The story comes to a reasonable ending.



Putting It All Together

1. Exposition



**Beginning of
Story**

2. Rising Action

3. Climax



Middle of Story

4. Falling Action



End of Story

5. Resolution

Conflict

- The struggle between two forces in the story. Conflict provides interest, suspense, and tension.

There are 5 types

-Character vs. Character

- * two or more characters have a problem

-Character vs. Nature

- * characters have to fight against a force of nature

-Character vs. Society

- * character fights against rules of society. Ex/ a character fights racism

-Character vs. Self

- * The character is dealing with an internal struggle. Usually moral

ex/ Tom Sawyer doesn't know if he should testify in court against Injun Joe

- Character vs. Technology

- Frankenstein a scientifically created creature that becomes a destructive monster.

