**PLOT**

The plot is how the author arranges events to develop their basic idea; It is the sequence of events in a story or play. The plot is a planned, logical series of events having a beginning, middle, and end. The short story usually has one plot so it can be read in one sitting. There are five essential parts of plot:

1. **Introduction/Exposition** - The beginning of the story where the characters and the setting is revealed.
2. **Rising Action** - This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed (events between the introduction and climax).
3. **Climax** - This is the highest point of interest and the turning point of the story. The reader wonders what will happen next; will the conflict be resolved or not?

It is helpful to consider climax as a three-fold phenomenon: 1) the main character receives new information 2) accepts this information (realizes it but does not necessarily agree with it) 3) acts on this information (makes a choice that will determine whether or not he/she gains his objective).

1. **Falling Action** - The events and complications begin to resolve themselves. The reader knows what has happened next and if the conflict was resolved or not (events between climax and denouement).
2. **Denouement** - This is the final outcome or untangling of events in the story.

