

Literary Analysis

PLOT ELEMENTS

Everything in a story happens for a reason. The series of events is the story's **plot**. The plot usually follows a pattern.

- **Exposition** introduces the characters and **setting**. It may also hint at what the **conflict**, or problem, will be.
- **Rising action** shows how the conflict develops.
- The most exciting part, or turning point of the story, is the **climax**. The outcome of the conflict is decided at this time.
- Tension eases during the **falling action**, and events unfold as a result of the climax.
- The **resolution** is the final point in the plot, in which the reader learns how everything turns out.

Directions: On the back of this sheet, make a list of important events from “The School Play.” Then record the events on the following diagram to identify what happens at each stage of the plot.

