

SHORT STORY PLOT EVALUATION

You will evaluate a short story's setting, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. **BASIC** competency for your level (first year) would have three rising actions and two or three falling. **Look for each element and use a different colored highlighter to identify each. Use pencil to make notes on the story.**

1. The **setting** should be in the first paragraph, or the second if the first is complicated. You should be able to identify main characters, and the place and time. Highlight and label them.
2. The **exposition (problem or conflict)** should also be in the first or second paragraph. Highlight and label.
3. Next, find the **resolution** at the end of the story. Highlight where the problem is solved and label it.
4. Read through and find the **climax**—the point that the outcome of the story is decided. Highlight and label.
5. From the climax, work backward to identify the **rising actions**. Highlight and label.
6. From the climax, work forward to identify the **falling actions**. Highlight and label.
7. **Draw the plot chart** an element at a time to ensure you have enough room. Don't draw the plot chart, and then try to fit everything into it.
8. **Check the model on the board to see what a plot chart should look like when it is finished.**