

STEP 1: Choose theme

- A story without a theme is little more than a list of events.
- Not only must it appeal to the reader, it must also appeal to you.

Examples of themes

- **Alienation** – The effects of loneliness and how to cure it
- **Ambition** – getting what you want, stunted, thwarted.
- **Betrayal** – the pain in love and friendship.
- **Courage** – courage to deal with conflict, lack of, developing, conquering with.
- **Escape** – from life, routine, prison, family pressures.
- **Fear** – driven by, dealing with, conquering.
- **Freedom** – loss of, gaining, handling, fight for.
- **Good versus evil** – survival of one despite the other, triumph of one over the other.
- **Jealousy** – trouble caused by, denial of, driven by.
- **Justice** – the fight for, injustice, truth versus justice.
- **Loss** – of life, innocence, love, friends.
- **Love** – love fades, is blind, can overcome all obstacles
- **Power** – the search for, the loss of, what we are willing to exchange for.
- **Prejudice** – racism, bigotry, snobbery, dealing with.
- **Survival** – man versus nature

STEP 2: Choose conflict

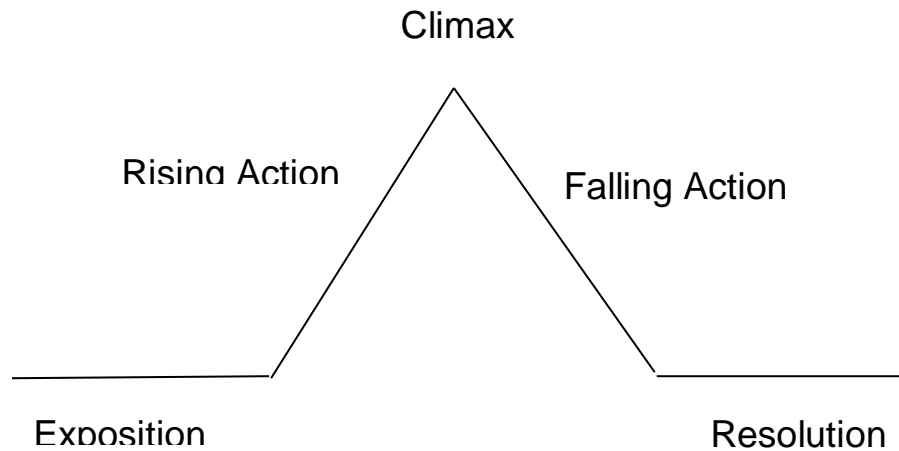
- A conflict develops the characters and reveals the theme

Types of conflict

- Man vs. Man
- Man vs. Self
- Man vs. Nature
- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Technology
- Man vs. Supernatural
- Man vs. Unknown

Example: If you want your theme to be alienation of young people in modern societies, you might want to choose Man vs. Technology.

STEP 3: List events



Take bullet point notes for each part of the plot.

EXPOSITION

- When will the story take place? (*Example:* if your conflict is Man vs. Technology, you might want to set the story in future or in present time)
- Where will the story take place? (*Example:* if your conflict is Man vs. Technology, you might want to set the story in a big city)
- Who will your protagonist be? (*Example:* if your audience are your peers, you might want the protagonist to be a teenager)

CLIMAX

- What will be the most dramatic point in the plot? When will the conflict between Man and Technology (example) become unbearable? When might the readers think the protagonist will not survive?

RISING ACTION

- What events will lead to the climax? List the events but make sure they contribute to the theme and the conflict.

FALLING ACTION AND RESOLUTION

- How will your protagonist resolve the conflict? Or fail to resolve it?
- List the events which will lead to the resolution so that it would not be abrupt.

STEP 4: Describe the setting

- List the key words you would like to use in the exposition, when describing the setting. Remember: the choice of words and your descriptions will set the tone of the whole story.
- Use the key words to write the exposition.

STEP 5: Develop the characterization

- What will make the major characters **dynamic**? Include: physical description, events which shed light on his/her personality, other people's insight. (*Example*: if you want the protagonist to be brave, think of a situation in which he/she would demonstrate the trait. You can also include dialogues between different characters which will reveal the protagonist's traits.)

STEP 6: Write the first draft

- Use the bullet points to write the first draft of your story.
- Decide on the **pace** of your story. If you want it to be fast paced - use a lot of action verbs. If you want the story to be slow paced - use a lot of description (adjectives).
- Don't focus on the style at the moment - focus on the plot.

STEP 7: Review and edit before handing in the final draft

- Read your sentences and correct any grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes.
- Consider how you can improve your style: make your descriptions more detailed by using adequate adjectives; make the actions more impactful by the use of adverbs.
- Think about your descriptions of the setting: what is your intended tone? What mood do you think it creates?

Works Cited:

"Examples Of Themes." *Examples of Themes. For the Creative Writer - How Theme Affects Story*, www.practicalcreativewriting.com/what-is-a-theme/examples-of-themes/.