

Get students to plot by writing their main ideas on the story graph. Ask questions to make sure they really do have a strong plan – AND an ending.

1. The Action Start

So what's the start of the story?

Start when something exciting/ scary/embarrassing happens.

You have to start with a bang - think of a great action scene you could use.

Use dialogue so we get to know the characters as they speak.

2. The Backfill

We don't need big slabs of information. Just who, what and why.

Put in the backfill as the action unfolds.

3. The Main Problem

What is your main character's problem?

Find a big problem for them to face. (Not just saving a cat up a tree.)

What would really make your person scared?

4. Even More Problems

We need even MORE problems. What will they be?

Things must be very bad indeed for your character. What else can go wrong?

Make your villain or problem even bigger than your hero.

5. The Big Tension Scene

Give lots of detail of this scene. Picture each step in your mind.

Make it REALLY hard. Will your hero/heroine make it?

6. The Climax

Now for the big climax. How's it going to end?

Your hero/heroine must solve the problem. How?

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