



Summer 2020

Dear Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

We look forward to you being enrolled in the upcoming school year at Calvary Academy middle school. All students at Calvary Academy from grades 6 through grade 12 are responsible to complete **two book readings** during the summer.

**BOOK 1:** Among the Hidden, read and complete the attached “**Character Traits**” form. You will be writing a Character Analysis during the first full week of Language Arts class.

**BOOK 2:** Select one of the books below to read and select 1 of the 2 project Options below to present evidence of reading the book.

GIRLS CHOICES:	BOYS CHOICES:
<u>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</u> by Elizabeth George Speare	<u>Maniac Magee</u> by Jerry Spinelli
or, Any book from “Dear America” series	or, Any book from the “My Name is America” series
	or, <u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> by Gennifer Cholden

A “**Building Blocks of Plot**” is attached to be used for both Options below.

**Option #1:**

A “Book in a Bag” is a book report contained in a brown paper or gift bag (grocery size), and is a creative way to demonstrate your understanding of your summer reading novel.

On the front of the bag, neatly write: a) Title of the Book b) Author of the Book c) draw an Illustration of an important scene

On the back of the bag, write a minimum 1 page summary of the book. Use the attached “Building Blocks of Plot” diagram to guide your writing and identify the plot elements in the story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Neatly write or type your summary directly on back of bag or attach it.

Inside the bag, place 5 items that go along with the story and represents events, characters, or problems in the story. Be imaginative and creative, and make sure each item that you pick is unique and represents a significant point in the novel. Here is a link where you can see a finished product: <http://teachersareterrific.com/2013/02/book-in-bag-project-great-alternative.html>

**or, Option#2: Diary :**

Create a diary - telling the story, **not** from the main character's perspective but from a minor character’s point of view. Example...for Witch of Blackbird Pond you may select Prudence, Hannah, Mercy, Nat, or any other character other than Kit. Use the attached “Building Blocks of Plot” diagram to guide your writing. Your diary entries must include all the elements of the story, exposition (characters, setting, conflict), rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. This project needs to read like a diary so include a good character description of yourself and the other characters of the story so we can better understand the plot from your character’s point of view. You must have a minimum of 10 entries, approx. 7-10 sentences for each entry (single spaced, 11 font, Times New Roman.)

**Your project must be turned in by the first Friday of school.**

Have a blessed summer.

In His Service,

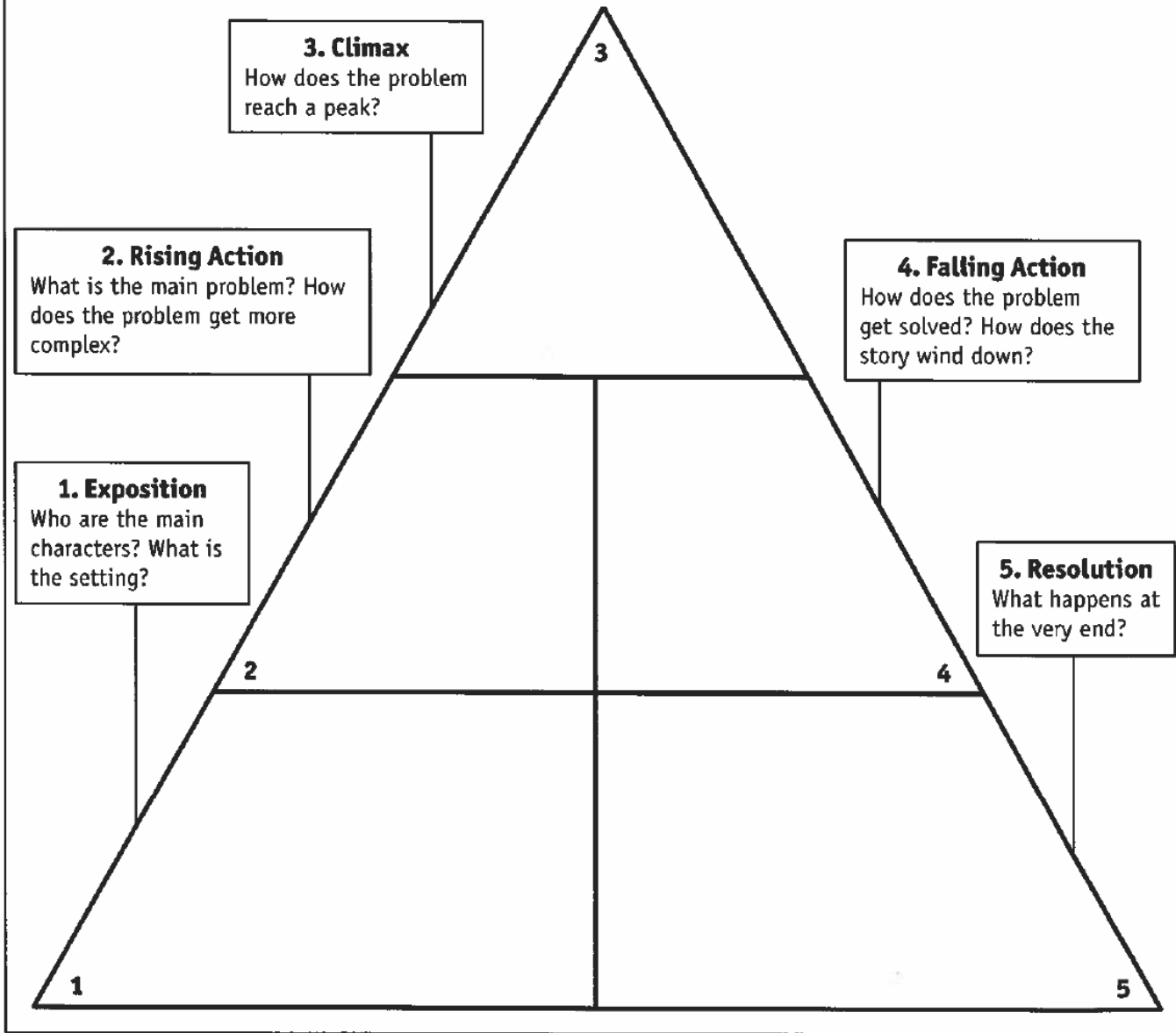
Stephanie Cruz

**SKILL: Understanding Plot**

# Building Blocks of Plot

Every story is different, but most stories follow a similar pattern. In the exposition, we meet the characters and learn about the setting. Then the plot thickens—the main problem is introduced and things get more complicated during the rising action. The climax of the story happens before things wind down during the falling action. Then comes the resolution, when the problem is straightened out (or not) and the story ends. These different parts of a story are known as “plot points.”

**Directions:** Each block in the pyramid below is one part of the plot of the story you are reading. In each block, write the answer to the question. When you’re done, you’ll see the main plot points of the story.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Character Traits

Write the name of the main character of your story in the banner at the top. Then write three traits the character possesses in the middle three boxes. In the bottom boxes, write examples from the book of the character demonstrating each of the three traits.

Title ~~Character~~ \_\_\_\_\_

The diagram is a hierarchical flowchart for character analysis. At the top is a banner with a ribbon-like border. A vertical line descends from the center of the banner to a horizontal line. From this horizontal line, three diagonal lines branch out to three circles, each containing the word "is". Below each "is" circle is a rectangular box for a trait. A vertical line connects each trait box to an oval containing the word "because". Below each "because" oval is a large, rounded rectangular box for an example. At the bottom of each of these three boxes is the text "Page # \_\_\_\_\_".