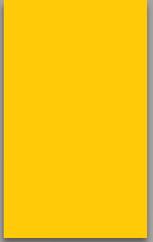


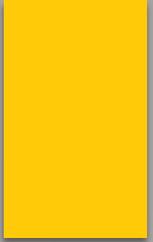
Lesson 4: Plot



Lesson 4: Plot and Pace



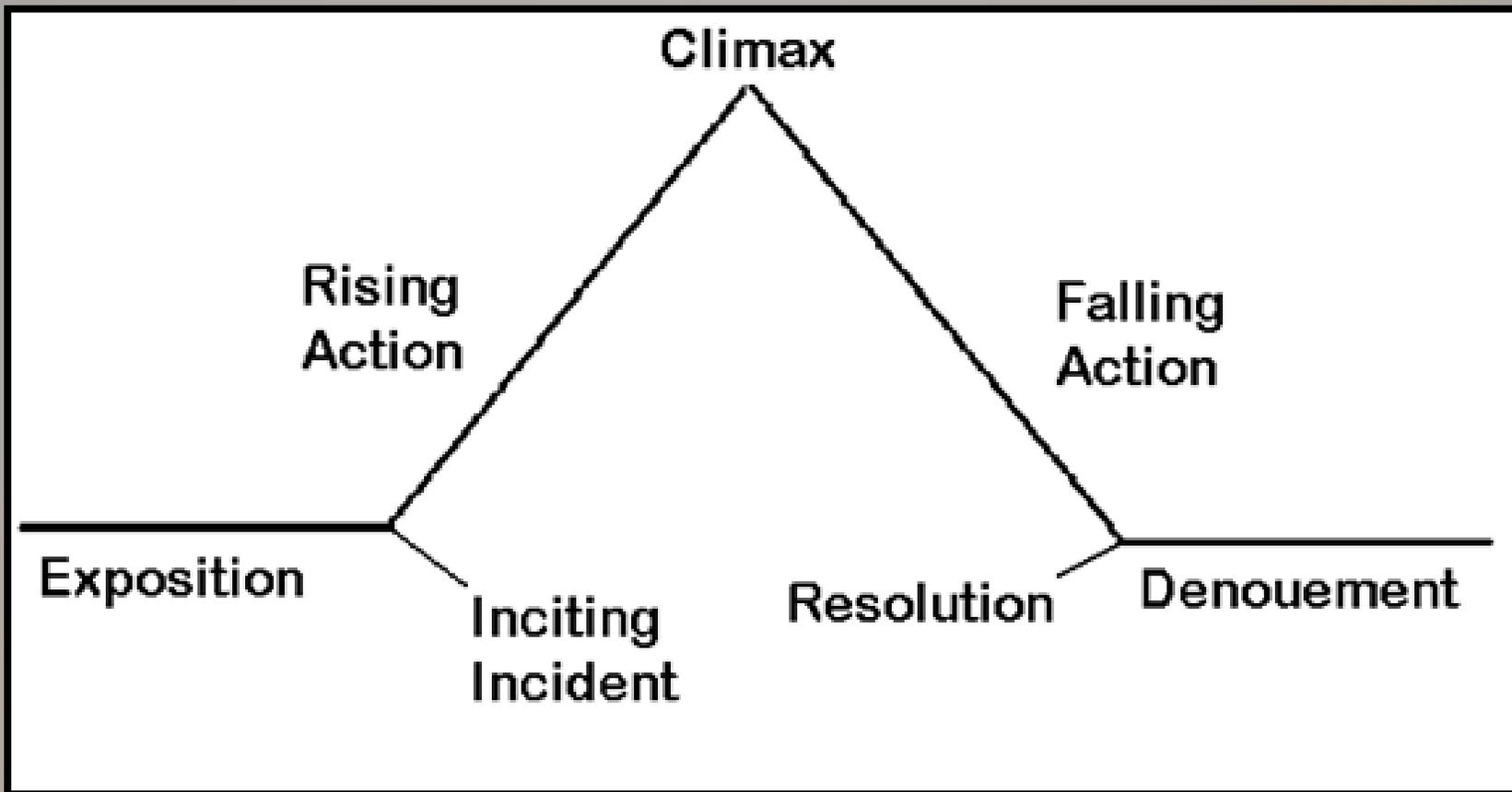
WARM-UP: With your partner, discuss some interesting stories you have read or watched. What did you find compelling about the plots, and how did they play out?



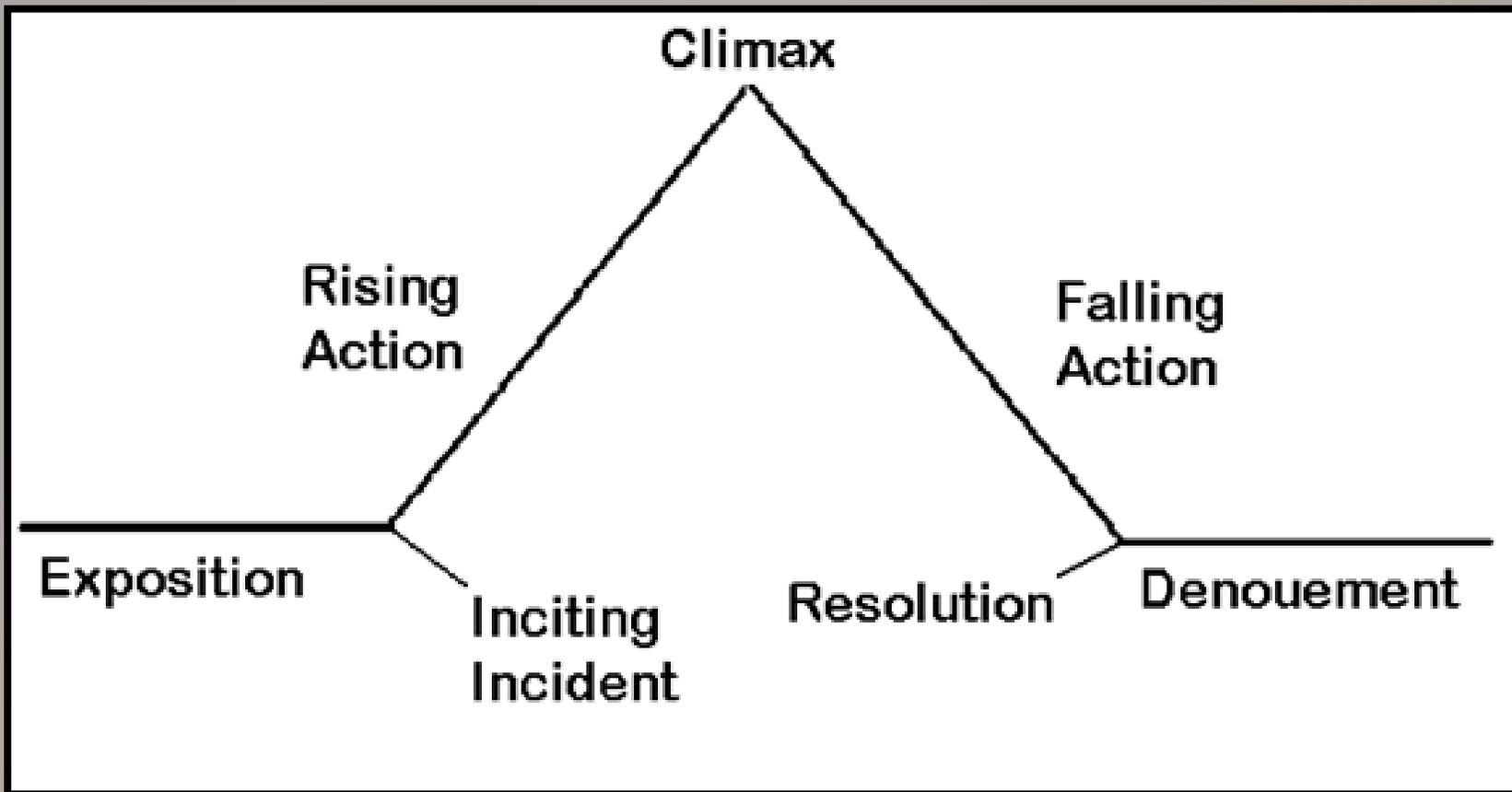
Lesson 4: Plot and Pace

The **PLOT** is the main thread that ties the story together from the opening to the climax to the denouement. A good plot has:

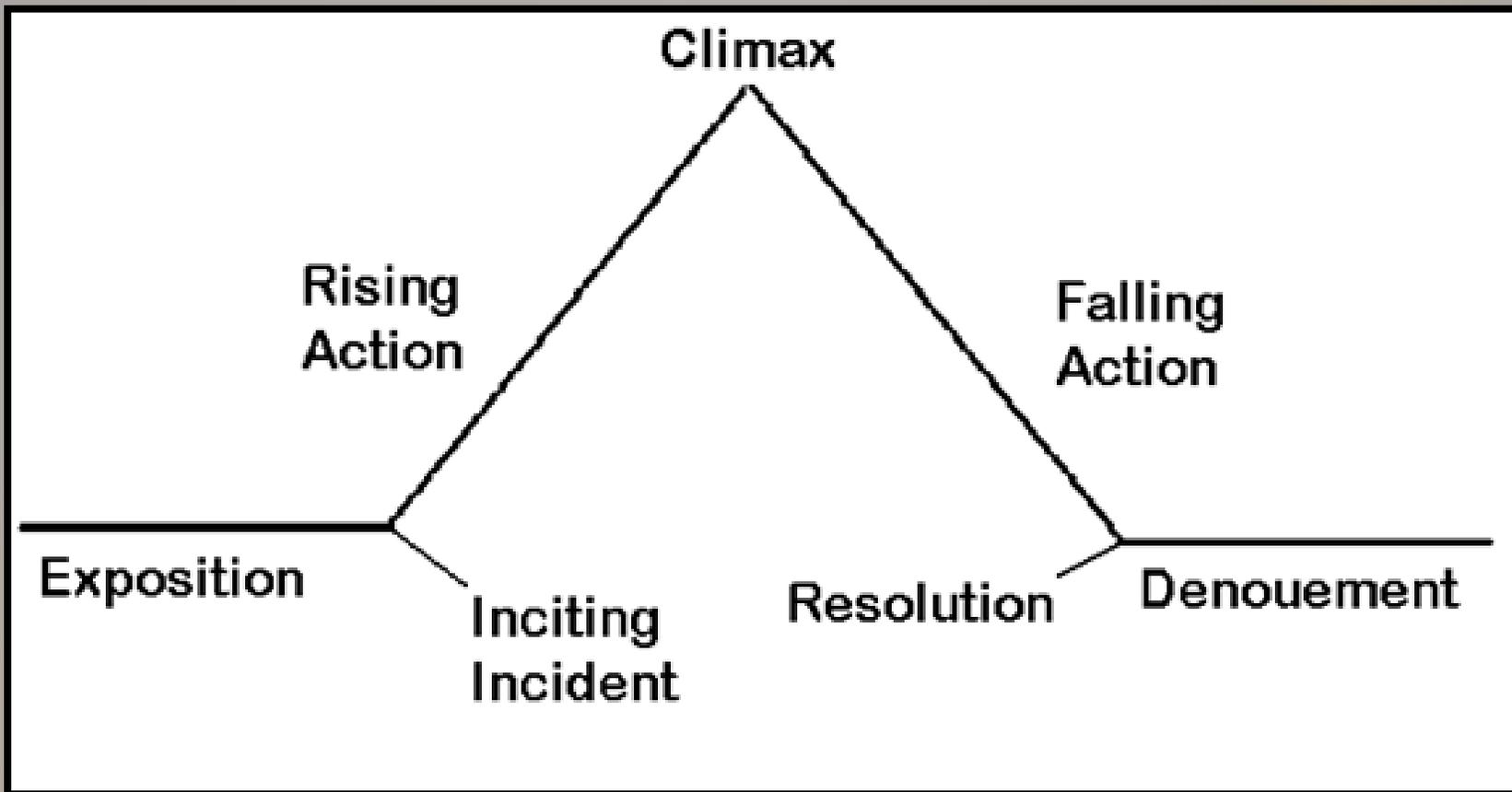
1. A challenge, a lack, or a problem (social, philosophical, moral, etc.)
2. This challenge compels the characters to **TAKE ACTION**.
3. The plot moves forward mainly *through* the **ACTIONS** (**not descriptions**) of the characters.



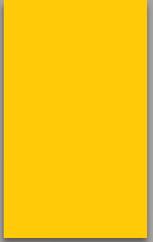
Act 1 - EXPOSITION & INCITING INCIDENT. The **exposition** (background/setting) is very important because you need to be concise and efficient in order to get to the inciting incident as soon as possible. This is where the characters' ordinary world is **DISRUPTED**, compelling them to act in a new way in order to bring balance to their disrupted environment.



Act 2 - RISING ACTION & CLIMAX. Actions are the key to building up to the **climax**. As you write, include twists and turns on the way, playing with readers' expectations and creating intrigue. This rising action leads to the climax, where the situation is resolved, the goal reached, or the problem conquered.



Act 3 - FALLING ACTION & DENOUEMENT. The final act is the resolution of conflict and **denouement** of the story, where threads of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.



Exercise 1 - Setting and Inciting Incident

Using your chosen prompt, take a look at your setting and (re)develop the inciting incident. Remember, the “normal world” of your character may be different from the “normal world” of your reader, so you have to make sure your setting gives the reader a clear picture of the status quo that is going to be disrupted.

When you are done, share your ideas with your partner.



Exercise 2 - Rising Action and Creating Obstacles

Explore the challenges and obstacles your characters will face. How will they deal with them? How are the protagonist's and antagonist's actions intertwined? What contributions do other characters make? How will this rising action be revealed and ultimately lead to the climax?

When you are done, share your ideas with your partner.

Exercise 3 - Climax, Falling Action and Denouement

Explore how the conflict can be resolved. How does the falling action tie everything together? Remember that your major characters will **change** in some manner after their victory or defeat as they reflect on the events.

When you are done, share your ideas with your partner.