

## LITERATURE: Understanding Plot Development

### Objective:

- Students will learn how to identify and analyze the elements of plot development using a plot diagram.
- They will practice applying this knowledge through guided practice using a myth and then independent practice using a fairy tale and plot diagram worksheet.

### Resources/Materials:

- Week 4 Slideshow
- The myth *King Midas and the Golden Touch* for guided practice (below)
- Copies of *The Three Little Pigs* and a plot diagram worksheet for independent practice (See Lesson Plan Resources – “Handouts” - 1 per student or group.)
- A plot diagram template for homework – options:
  - Print one copy per student (See Lesson Plan Resources – “Homework Wksht”).
  - Attach the PDF to a student assignment for printing or replicating on blank paper
  - Upload a copy of the digital plot diagram and make it editable (See instructions in the ELA Getting Started Guide.)

### Instructions:

#### 1. Introduction to Plot Diagram (10 minutes)

- **Define Plot Development:** Begin by explaining that plot is the sequence of events that make up a story. These events are usually structured in a specific way to keep the reader engaged.
- **Introduce the Plot Diagram:** Draw a plot diagram on the whiteboard or in a notebook. Explain each section of the diagram, using simple definitions:
  - **Exposition:** The introduction to the story where characters, setting, and the main conflict are introduced.
  - **Inciting Moment:** The event that sets the story into motion and introduces the main conflict. It's the "spark" that changes the protagonist's life and pushes them into the rising action. It often occurs shortly after the exposition.
  - **Rising Action:** Events that build tension and lead up to the climax of the story.
  - **Climax:** The turning point, which is the most intense part of the story.
  - **Falling Action:** Events that happen after the climax as the story starts to resolve.
  - **Resolution:** The conclusion of the story where loose ends are tied up and the conflict is resolved.
  - **Theme:** The central message, lesson, or moral of a story. It is the deeper meaning or the main idea that the author wants to convey through the events, characters, and conflicts in the story. The theme is often a universal concept that can apply to many situations, such as friendship, bravery, love, or the consequences of greed.

**Tip:** Explain that the plot diagram is like a roller coaster. The rising action is the build-up to the top of the ride, the climax is the peak, and the falling action is the ride down until the resolution.

## 2. Guided Practice (10 minutes)

- **Read a Myth Aloud:** *King Midas and the Golden Touch*
- **Class Discussion:** After reading, discuss the story to ensure understanding. Ask questions like:
  - "Who are the main characters?"
  - "Where does the story take place?"
  - "What is the main conflict?"
  - "What happens at the end?"
- **Complete Plot Diagram:** Using the whiteboard or a notebook, begin filling out the plot diagram together. Guide student(s) in identifying the elements of the plot for the story:
  - **Exposition:** Who are the characters, and where is the story set?
  - **Inciting Moment:** What is the event that sets the story into motion?
  - **Rising Action:** What events lead to the climax of the story?
  - **Climax:** What is the turning point or moment of greatest tension?
  - **Falling Action:** How does the story start to resolve?
  - **Resolution:** How does the story end?
  - **Theme:** What is the central message of the story?

Ensure that students provide evidence from the text to support the plot points.

## 3. Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- **Instructions:** Have student(s) work independently or in groups to read the familiar fairy tale, *The Three Little Pigs*, and complete a plot diagram.

Student(s) should identify the following:

1. **Exposition:** Who are the characters? Where does the story take place?
2. **Inciting Moment:** What is the event that sets the story into motion?
3. **Rising Action:** What events build up to the climax?
4. **Climax:** What is the most intense moment or turning point?
5. **Falling Action:** What happens as the story starts to wind down?
6. **Resolution:** How does the story end?
7. **Theme:** What is the central message of the story?

Remind the student(s) to avoid getting into too much detail; the goal is to focus on the key elements of the plot.

- Assist student(s) as needed.

## 4. Sharing and Discussion (5 minutes)

- **Share Results:** After student(s) have completed their plot diagrams, invite them to share their plot diagram. In a group setting, document their answers on the whiteboard as they share.
- **Discussion:** As the student(s) presents, discuss the different plot elements identified. Ask clarifying questions:

- "What makes the climax of *The Three Little Pigs* so intense?"
- "How does the rising action build tension in the story?"
- "How does the resolution tie up the conflict?"
- "What is the theme of the story and do you agree?"

**5. Homework Assignment (5 minutes)**

- **Homework:** Begin filling out a plot diagram for the historical fiction novel you are currently reading independently. This plot diagram will be due when you finish reading the novel at the end of three weeks.

**Instructions:**

1. **Exposition:** Write down key information about the setting, characters, and the initial conflict.
  2. **Inciting Moment:** Note the event that sets the story into action.
  3. **Rising Action:** Note events that build the conflict and lead to the climax.
  4. **Climax:** Describe the turning point of the story.
  5. **Falling Action:** Identify events that occur after the climax.
  6. **Resolution:** Summarize how the story ends.
  7. **Theme:** Summarize the central message of the story.
- **Tip:** Focus on major events and do not include too much detail.

### **King Midas and the Golden Touch**

Once upon a time, there was a wealthy and powerful king named Midas, who ruled a kingdom in ancient Greece. Midas loved gold more than anything else in the world. He would spend his days counting his treasures, admiring his golden possessions, and dreaming of more wealth.

One day, a god named Dionysus, the god of wine and celebration, visited King Midas's kingdom. The god was tired and needed a place to rest. King Midas welcomed Dionysus with open arms and treated him to a feast. In gratitude for Midas's kindness, Dionysus offered to grant him a wish.

Midas, eager to increase his wealth, quickly wished for the ability to turn everything he touched into gold. "I want everything I touch to turn to gold," he said.

Dionysus smiled and granted the wish, but with a warning: "Be careful what you wish for, Midas. Gold may not bring the happiness you expect."

At first, Midas was overjoyed. He touched a stone, and it turned to gold. He touched a flower, and it became a golden bloom. Soon, he was touching everything around him, turning it into gold, and imagining the vast treasure he was accumulating.

But things took a turn for the worse when Midas tried to eat. He touched his food, and it turned to solid gold. He tried to drink from his goblet, but it too became gold, and he could no longer satisfy his hunger or thirst. Soon, he realized that his daughter, whom he loved dearly, came to visit him. In his excitement, he reached out to hug her, but she turned to gold in his arms.

King Midas was horrified. What seemed like a blessing had become a terrible curse. He begged Dionysus to take back the golden touch, pleading for the chance to undo his wish. Moved by Midas's sorrow, Dionysus told him that he could wash away the power by bathing in the river Pactolus.

King Midas hurried to the river and plunged into its waters. As he bathed, the golden touch was lifted, and everything he had turned into gold returned to its original form. Midas learned an important lesson: that wealth is not the most important thing in life, and love and happiness cannot be bought.

From that day on, King Midas lived a simpler, more content life, cherishing the things that truly mattered.