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**A Story’s Structure**

* The plot is the main events that happen in the story – you’ve just told your teacher the plot of the story you’ve been discussing
* Setting – this is where the events happen, this could be in a forest, a desert, on the beach or in another country. In a mini saga, there is usually only one setting
* Characters – these are the people/creatures in your story
* Events – these are situations or actions that happen to move your story along, this could be someone being kidnapped, a strange visitor, falling out with a friend, meeting a hero, etc.

**Beginning:**  
Introduce the characters, where they are and what is happening to set up the story.  
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**Middle:  
How does your character react?   
Do they make things better or worse?   
What happens next?  
– an event to move the story along**

**Ending:  
What happens at the end?  
Happy ever after or tragedy?  
Is the problem solved or does it end on a cliffhanger?  
-Tie**

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**The 5 Ws: who, what, where, why and when**

**Who:**

Who features in your story – just your main character or anyone else? Are they good or bad?

**What:**

What happens to your character?

Every story needs an event or conflict to move the plot along. Does your character save the day, have a problem or dilemma? Do they cause the problem or help to fix it? What will you choose?

**When and where is the story set?**

**Why:**

Why does the event or conflict happen? Why does your character behave the way they do? Are they in the wrong place at the wrong time?

How will you resolve the conflict / dilemma or will you write a cliffhanger ending…?

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5 top tips:

* You might want to think about the ending of your story first so that you can work how your characters are going to get there.
* The events in stories should be a chain, caused by previous events rather than being a sequence of separate events.   
  Instead of a story being: ‘This happened, then this, then this, and finally this.’ It should be: ‘This happened, which caused this, which then made this happen which gives us this ending.’   
  - Do the events in your story lead on from one another like a chain or are they quite separate?
* Use a thesaurus to help you make stronger word choices- but check that the new word still makes sense in the sentence!
* Be specific! Use precise words to describe the scene and what is happening:  
  E.g. He ran quickly – He sprinted   
  Plants covered the gravestones – Ivy covered the gravestones   
  He gave her a bunch of flowers – He gave her a bunch of tulips   
  She walked carefully into the old, crumbling building – She crept into the derelict church
* Short sentences are quicker and give a speedy, urgent tone. Longer sentences with conjunctions give a slower and calmer tone.

Read your work again and check that it makes sense.