

## **Story Plot Line Explained**

**Exposition:** This is the intro into our story. We usually discover where we are: setting and the characters (specifically the protagonist). This part sets us a foundation to base our judgement and empathy towards the characters and their circumstances. If the audience does not know the characters the audience will not care about them.

**Ex:** We are in Africa, the landscape is serene but also bustling with life of many species of animals. We enter Pride Rock which is home to a just King lion (Mufasa) and his family as they present their newest family member (Simba) to their loyal and joyous subjects. All is good except for a jealous uncle (Scar) of the new prince cub.

**Inciting Action:** This is the first indication of a problem the protagonist is faced with. This is where the story really starts to unfold because now the characters are affected and therefore must seek a solution.

**Ex:** Scar decides to take action and devises a plan to secure his place on the throne by killing his brother, Mufasa, and newborn nephew, Simba.

**Rising Action:** The attempts the character makes to resolve their problem or perhaps introductions to characters who might help the protagonist OR events that further infuriate or protagonist and set them further from resolve.

**Ex:**

### **1. Scar's Plan is executed**

- Scar uses Simba to bait Mufasa in an elaborate scheme to kill both Mufasa and Simba and win the power of the kingdom.
- Simba escapes the hyenas and is rescued in the desert

### **2. Simba survives and forgets his past**

- Simba meets Timon and Pumba who introduce a carefree life
- Scar takes over the Pride lands but is a tyrannical ruler who devastates the balance and leads the pride into starvation

### **3. Simba is reunited with his past**

- Nala (Simba's betrothed since birth) leaves to find food and finds Simba
- Simba's carefree life is challenged

**Climax:** This is where the protagonist has usually discovered something that changes them. Either changes their opinion, makes them try a different approach, or even sets them on the path of fury.

**Ex:** Simba has a spiritual experience and converses with his late father who appears to him in the clouds. Before this point he was ready to forget the past, he ran from, and continue to hide but now he has a new found courage and decides to return home once again.

**Falling Action:** Everything that happens after the climax, this is where the original conflict is acted on.

**Ex:**

- Simba returns home and sees the havoc Scar has created both to the land itself and also to all its inhabitants.
- Simba faces Scar and they fight - Scar is defeated

**Resolution:** This is the final moments of the story. Possibly a happy ending, maybe not but in any case life moves on from this original conflict.

**Ex:** The Pride Lands are once again restored, the animals are joyous and now Simba and Nala are about to present their new lion cub, from their perch on Pride Rock. The circle of life is complete.