

Freytag's Pyramid

Freytag's Pyramid is a way to analyze a plot that consists of five elements in an ascending and descending manner. In the introduction, the plot, characters, and complication are introduced. This leads to the rising action, or the events that lead to the climax of the plot. At the point of highest dramatic tension, or at a major turning point in the plot, the audience finds the climax. This decisive moment in the narrative is when the rising action is reversed to falling action. The falling action, then, is made up of the events that follow the climax and lead to the denouement. The final outcome, result, or unraveling of the main dramatic complication is called the denouement. The denouement may involve a reversal in the protagonist's fortunes, usually as the result of a discovery (recognition of something of great importance previously unknown) by the protagonist.

Freytag's Pyramid can be illustrated in the following way:

