

# Creating Plot

Janie Lynn Panagopoulos, 2014 ©

What is the plot to the story? The plot to the story is a series of actions that revolves around an attempt to solve a problem or achieve a goal. The goal (problem) is what your Main Character wants to achieve or a problem he/she wants to solve. The plot/problem involves all your characters and is the skeleton that holds your story together.

1. Organize your thoughts, create an outline or use a graphic organizer.
2. Key points must be part of your plot. Key points are turning events that make your story move forward towards the end/goal. Make key points part of your outline. If you have three-five-ten key points building to the climax, you need three-five-ten key points descending to the end/goal. Know what they are before you write. Ask yourself what key points (actions) need to happen to achieve the end/goal of your story.
3. Know the beginning, middle and end of your story before you write. The beginning introduces character, setting, and problem. The middle builds with your key points to the climax (the most exciting part of the story) and starts the emotional descent towards the end/goal of the story. The end/goal is where the story has changed, and the reader must understand what has happened. Was the goal achieved or not? What might happen if the goal is not reached? Where (setting) did the action take place? What character(s) helped to reach the end/goal?
4. Give your characters problems that are important to them. If the problem is not important to your Main Character, it will not be important to your readers. Make the problem big and let your readers know how the MC works to find an answer to the problem. Give your MC rewards along the way, this allows the reader to achieve enjoyment from the story.
5. If you are writing historical fiction, you need to know what historical facts will be included in your story and where to place the information in the plot.