


How to structure narratives purposefully



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

## TODAY YOU WILL:

- # Identify different story structures
- # Examine elements of different story structures
- # Identify the purpose of using each story structure



Story structure is how the narrative elements of the story are arranged to develop the narrative.

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

Do you remember these keywords?

## ORIENTATION

It sets the stage for the story and includes an introduction to characters, setting, and conflict.

## RISING ACTION

A series of events increasing in tension are retold, until the climax (highest point of tension) is reached.

## RESOLUTION

The main conflict is resolved and the story comes to an end.

# STORY STRUCTURES

## LINEAR

Events unfold in a chronological or sequential structure: one building onto another until the resolution is reached.

## CIRCULAR

The story ends in a way that goes back to the beginning, creating a deeper understanding and a sense of completeness.

## PARALLEL

This story structure has two separate storylines running at the same time. They are linked by common characters, events, or themes.

# THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO

Read the following summaries to help you identify what structure the story follows.



## ORIENTATION

Geppetto creates Pinocchio, a puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy.

## RISING ACTION

As Pinocchio tries to become a real boy, he faces many problems. He meets tricky characters like the Fox and Cat and even turns into a donkey while working for a mean puppeteer. These challenges teach him important lessons about honesty and kindness, helping him grow up and get closer to becoming a real boy.

## RESOLUTION

After proving his bravery and kindness, Pinocchio becomes a real boy. He and Geppetto enjoy a loving father-son relationship.

# THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO

(Move the sticker to the correct story structure)



The Adventures of Pinocchio follows a...

LINEAR  
STRUCTURE

CIRCULAR  
STRUCTURE

PARALLEL  
STRUCTURE

This is because...

# THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO

SAMPLE ANSWER

The Adventures of Pinocchio follows a...



LINEAR  
STRUCTURE

CIRCULAR  
STRUCTURE

PARALLEL  
STRUCTURE

This is because...

the story moves smoothly from its orientation to its rising action and climax, ending in the resolution.

# YOUR TURN!

Time to work individually or  
in groups to find the right  
answers and explain why.



# WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Read the following summaries to help you identify what structure the story follows.



## MOLE

The main plot revolves around Mole. He meets Rat, a water-loving creature, along the way, and the two become fast friends.

Rat introduces Mole to the joys of river boating, and they have a number of adventures together.

## TOAD

Meanwhile, Toad becomes obsessed with new fads and engages in risky activities with automobiles. His reckless decisions caused a series of mishaps, including his arrest and imprisonment.

## TOAD, MOLE AND RAT

Both plots intertwine as the story progresses, and Rat and Mole are drawn into Toad's adventures.

# WIND IN THE WILLOWS

(Move the sticker to the correct story structure)



Wind in the Willows follows a...

LINEAR  
STRUCTURE

CIRCULAR  
STRUCTURE

PARALLEL  
STRUCTURE

This is because...

# ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Read the following summaries to help you identify what structure the story follows.



## SETTING

The story starts with Alice sitting on the riverbank and finishes in the same place, where she wonders about her experiences "down the rabbit hole."

## CHARACTERS

Also, Alice meets recurring characters throughout the narrative such as the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts.

## THEMES

The theme of transformation, with Alice "growing and shrinking," is repeated. After shrinking for a last time after eating mushrooms, Alice returns to her original form in the final chapters during the trial of the Knave of Hearts.

# ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(Move the sticker to the correct story structure)



Alice in Wonderland follows a...

LINEAR  
STRUCTURE

CIRCULAR  
STRUCTURE

PARALLEL  
STRUCTURE

This is because...

## SAMPLE ANSWERS



Wind in the Willows follows a parallel story structure.



Alice in Wonderland follows a circular story structure.

## EXPLANATION

These parallel storylines involve various characters and their individual adventures, which eventually converge and influence one another.

The return to the original setting suggesting that her experiences are only imaginary and the recurring character and theme show the story structure is circular.

# PURPOSE: WHY USE EACH?

## LINEAR STORY STRUCTURE

This allows readers to easily follow the story because it provides a clear and straightforward narrative progression.

## CIRCULAR STORY STRUCTURE

This allows a story to complete itself, providing a satisfying sense of closure. It can also emphasise important themes through repeated events, characters or motifs.

## PARALLEL STORY STRUCTURE

This allows writers to tell stories from different viewpoints, follow different storylines, and introduce various characters. This creates more engaging stories.

# STORY EXAMPLES HUNT ACTIVITY

1

Search for books or movies in the classroom or school library that exemplify each of the story structures we have studied today.

2

Afterward, each student or group will share their findings and explain how they align with different story structures.

# LINEAR STORY STRUCTURE

Identify a story that follows a linear story structure. Use the graphic organizer below to complete the summaries of each narrative structure. Add images or scenes to represent each section of the plot.

## ORIENTATION

Add a brief summary of how the story started here.



## RISING ACTION

What are some of the conflicts that built tension in the story?



## CLIMAX

What was the most intense or pivotal part of the story?



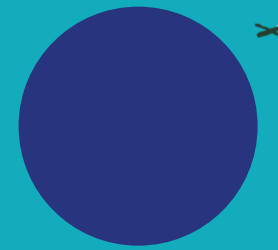
## RESOLUTION

How were the conflicts resolved? How did the story end?





# STORY PLOT STRUCTURES



Three-part  
quiz  
challenge

# PART 1: PLOT STRUCTURE DEFINITION



It is a plot where the protagonist goes through a series of challenges, each leading to the next until the ultimate goal is achieved.



CIRCULAR PLOT

PARALLEL PLOT

LINEAR PLOT

A story with this plot returns to the original setting and sometimes suggests that the experiences were only imaginary.



CIRCULAR PLOT

PARALLEL PLOT

LINEAR PLOT

A story with this plot involves various characters and their individual adventures, which eventually converge and influence one another.



CIRCULAR PLOT

PARALLEL PLOT

LINEAR PLOT

# PART 2: STORY MATCHING CHALLENGE

Match the story to its correct plot structure.

# DO YOU KNOW THESE STORIES?

## WIND IN THE WILLOWS



## THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO



## ALICE IN WONDERLAND



READY TO TAKE THE QUIZ?

Place these under their correct category and explain your answer.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

ALICE IN  
WONDERLAND

THE ADVENTURES OF  
PINOCCHIO

Linear Plot Structure

I think this story fits this structure because...

Circular Plot Structure

I think this story fits this structure because...

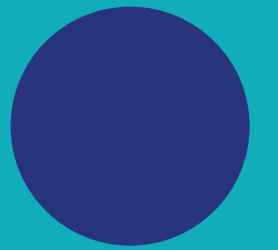
Parallel Plot Structure

I think this story fits this structure because...



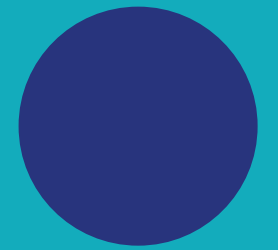


# PART 3: STORY SNIPPETS ANALYSIS



Place this story snippet under their correct category.

The story revolves around the adventures and misadventures of four friends. One character's reckless behavior and obsession with motorcars lead to various escapades.



Linear Plot Structure

Circular Plot Structure

Parallel Plot Structure



Place this story snippet under their correct category.

A young girl falls down a hole and accidentally discovers a fantastical world filled with bizarre characters and nonsensical situations. She wakes up at the location where she started her adventure.

Linear Plot Structure

Circular Plot Structure

Parallel Plot Structure

Place this story snippet under their correct category.

A wooden puppet dreams of becoming a real boy. Throughout his journey, he faces various challenges and adventures while learning important life lessons.

Linear Plot Structure

Circular Plot Structure

Parallel Plot Structure

# RETELL A BOOK IN SIX PANELS

Read a book with a circular structure and take note of the six most important parts. Then, use this comic strip to retell it using narration, dialogue, scenes, and images. Replace the title with your own.

Introduce the character here and how the story started.

Add a dialogue here

What is a problem or conflict the character faces?

Add text that needs the reader's attention here

How does the character attempt to solve the problem?

What other complications did they encounter?

How were the problems resolved?

How did the story end?

Feel free to delete these prompts when you are done!

See you next time!