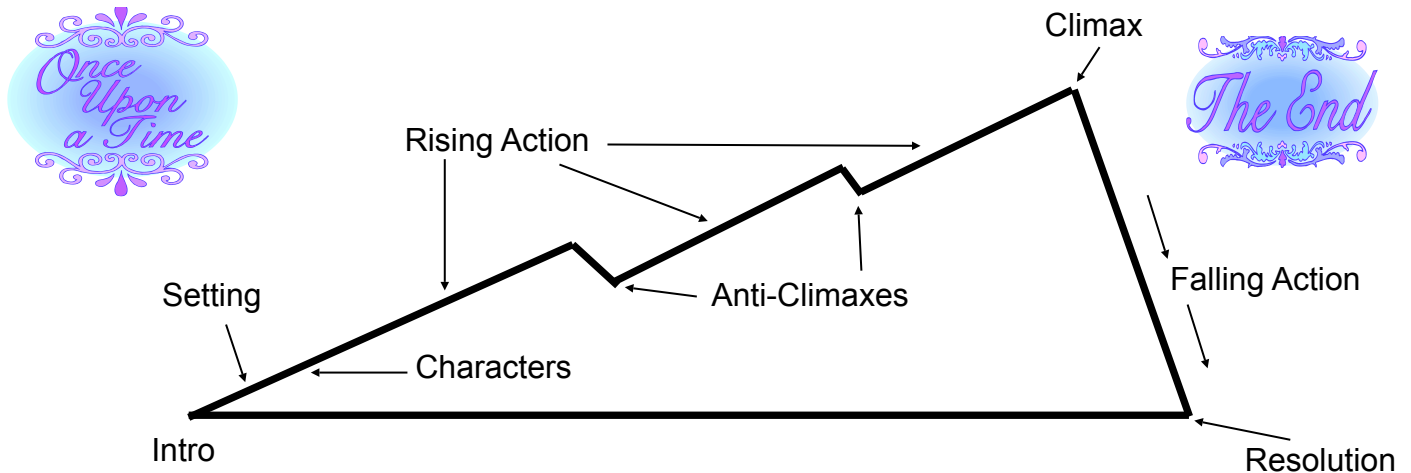


What is a COMIC STRIP?

The purpose of most comic strips is to entertain. However, you will also be asked to inform your audience about Rainforest Aboriginal people's relationship to the Wet Tropics either in the past, or today. In many ways the comic strip is very similar to the short story. In fact, they both use the same narrative structure outlined below. However, by using illustrations comic strips can communicate ideas that can't be expressed through words alone.



1. Comic strips are divided into **PANELS**. These are separate squares for your illustrations, characters and captions.
2. Introduce your **LANDSCAPE**. This is the setting where your characters live. Use props (like rocks and trees) that could be seen in a variety of panels as your comic progresses.
3. Introduce your **CHARACTERS** by using **CAPTIONS**. Captions are the speech or thought bubbles that provide the dialogue. Think about how your characters sound, do they have accents or unique sayings? Use captions to build up the relationship between your characters.
4. Introduce a **CONFLICT**. It doesn't have to be a fight. It could be a natural disaster (like a cyclone), a choice that has to be made, a threat, a misunderstanding or a coincidence. Use onomatopoeia to convey the conflict: if a tree falls in a cyclone, include the caption CRACK!
5. Think about how your characters will deal with the conflict. This is the **ACTION** stage. Use lots of action words (verbs and adverbs) and onomatopoeia.
6. Spend a lot of your time thinking about the story's **CLIMAX**. This is the end of the ACTION stage and reveals whether the characters were successful or not in dealing with the CONFLICT. It's the turning point of the story.
7. Finish with a **RESOLUTION**. This is the final stage of the short story and reveals the results of the CLIMAX. Did the characters survive, change or prosper?

Hints

- Plan your story first, then consider how you will divide it into about 30 panels.
- Write your captions for each panel before you start the illustrations.
- Read through your captions and ask yourself 'how can the illustrations make this easier to understand?'