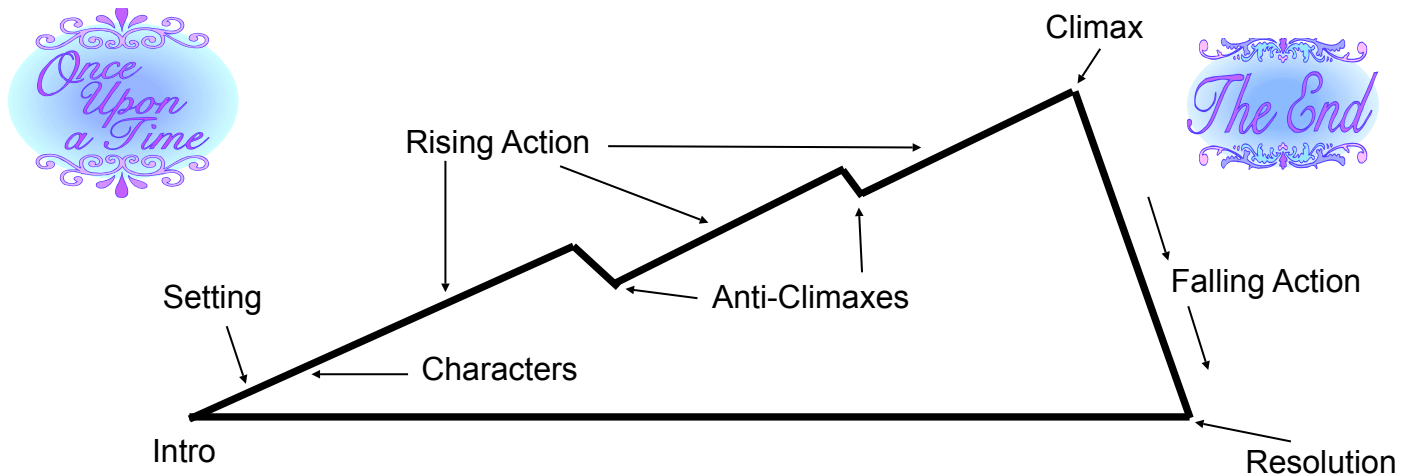


What is a SHORT STORY?

The purpose of most short stories 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. The short story structure is described below:



1. Start your short story by describing the **SETTING**. Make the reader aware of the landscape in which the characters will live.
2. Introduce your **CHARACTERS**. Make them believable and human. Think about how your characters would speak, move, what they would wear, their personal idiosyncrasies (they might always scratch their ear!) and their relationships with each other.
3. Introduce a **CONFLICT**. This 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.
4. Think about how your characters will deal with the conflict. This is the **ACTION** stage. Use lots of action words (verbs and adverbs).
5. 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.
6. 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

- Dialogue (people speaking to each other, or themselves!) is an important tool in short story writing.
- Come up with a meaningful title that conveys some sense of the story.
- Spend a lot of time working on the introduction and the climax – if you don't get these right, your story will suffer and lose its entertainment value.