

## Engaging adult learners through storytelling w/ Vickie Brent-Touray

Story Spine	Structure	Function
Once upon a time...	Opening/Setting	The world of the story is introduced.
Everyday...	Build Up	The main character's routine is established
But one day...	Dilemma	The routine is broken.
Because of that...	Dilemma	There are consequences for breaking the routine. It isn't clear if the character will come out "ok" or not.
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Until finally...	Resolution	The main character embarks upon success or failure.
And, every since then...	Closing	The main character succeeds or fails and a new routine is established.

<b>Title:</b>	
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Everyday...	
But one day...	
Because of that...	
Because of that...	
Until finally...	
And, every since then...	

**Notes:**

## Pixar Inspired Story Explanation

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**Freytag's Pyramid**  
 adapted from Gustav Freytag's  
*Technik des Dramas* (1863)

Traditionally situated in the third act of a play, the climax is the moment of greatest tension, uncertainty, or audience involvement. The climax is also called the *crisis*.

**CLIMAX**

The moment of reversal is also called the *peripeteia*. In classical tragedy, the reversal is that moment in which the protagonist's fortunes change irreversibly for the worse. Frequently, the very trait we admire in a tragic hero is the same trait that brings about the hero's downfall.

At some point after the reversal, the tragic hero realizes or verbalizes his tragic error. This moment of tragic recognition is called the *anagnorisis*.

During the falling action, the earlier tragic force causes the failing fortunes of the hero. This culminates in the final catastrophe and invokes *catharsis* (emotional purgation) in the audience.

The catastrophe often spirals outward. Not only does the hero suffer for an earlier choice, but that choice causes suffering to those the hero loves or wants to protect.

Rising action is an increase in tension or uncertainty developing out of the conflict the protagonist faces.

Exposition consists of early material providing the theme, establishing the setting, and introducing the major characters and sometimes early hints of the coming conflict.

**Exposition**

**Rising Action**

**Complication**

**Reversal**

**Falling Action**

**Catastrophe**

**Inciting Moment**

**Moment of Last Suspense**

**The Structure of Tragedy**

After the suspense ends, the *denouement* unwinds previous tension and helps provide closure.