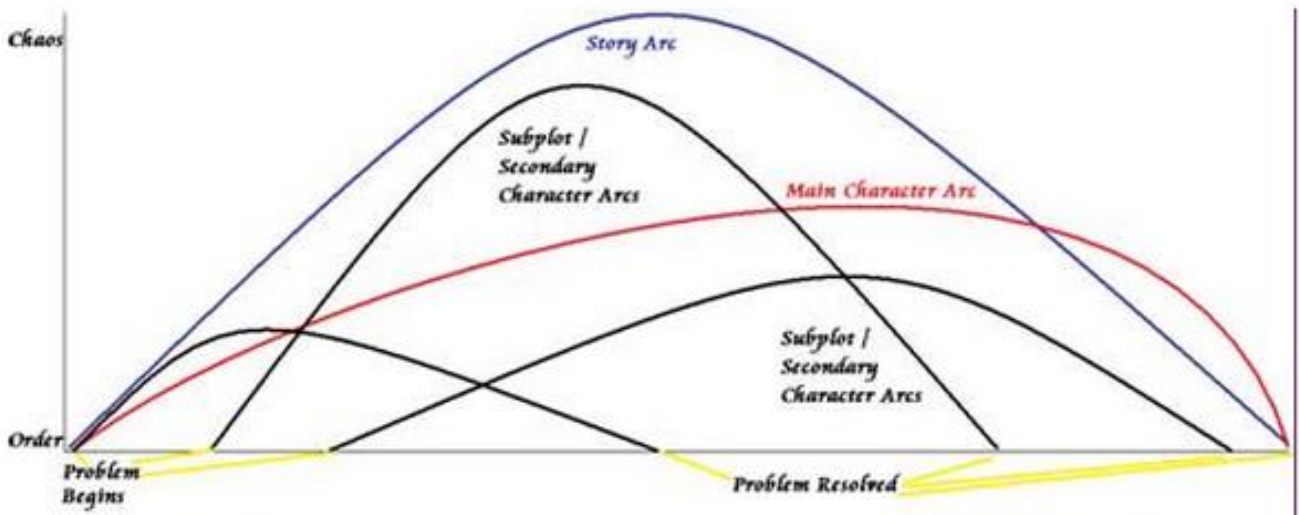




- What do you want to convey in this story? What is the point? The point has to be something that your readers can relate to/identify with/find interesting.
- Create a plotline that has a problem that is resolved. You can use this Story Arc below to see how most stories are graphically outlined.
- Character Development: Think about your characters. What do they like, what do they dis-like? What do they care about? What drives and motivates them? How do your characters engage with one another?
- Give your main character (protagonist) a reason to exist.
- What happens in the story? This is called plot. There has to be some question, mystery or conflict the main character is trying to solve.
- Have some stakes. Stakes are essential in storytelling. What does character stand to gain or lose? Why is what happens in the story important?
- Start in the action. Have a great first line that sets up the stakes or grabs attention.
  - No: "So I was thinking about climbing this mountain. But then I watched a little TV and made a snack and took a nap and my mom called and vented about her psoriasis then I did a little laundry (a whites load) (I lost another sock, darn it!) and then I thought about it again and decided I'd climb the mountain the next morning."
  - Yes: "The mountain loomed before me. I had my hunting knife, some trail mix and snow boots. I had to make it to the little cabin and start a fire before sundown or freeze to death for sure."
- What happens at the highest peak of the story arc? At this point, your readers are fully drawn into the story. They want to know "what happens next?!"
- Steer clear of meandering endings

- Think about all these items and then draw an outline or a storyboard. Visualize how the story will fall, how the reader will read it. What information does the reader need to know?
- Fill in the gaps, fill in missing information.



### Resources and Ideas:

- Check out #storytelling to see what else is happening in the world of storytelling.
- Moth Podcast
- What makes a good story and a bad story?
- Trying acting out or telling your story with a friend
- What story do you want to tell?
- Think of the stories you like to hear.
- How do visuals play a role in storytelling?
- How can you tell a story using text and visuals in cooperation?