

MAKE A CHARACTER:

Professional writers often use a character sheet to help themselves create characters and to remember details about them. Use this sheet to help you think about what kind of person your character is.

Character's name: _____

Age: ____ Man, woman, boy, or girl? ____ Where does he/she live? _____

When does/did she live? _____

How does he get along with his family? Who is your character closest to?

Favorite things to do:

What is he/she bad at doing?

1. What does your character fear the most?

2. What does he/she wish for or want the most ?

3. What is your character's biggest problem?

4. What is keeping her from fixing it?

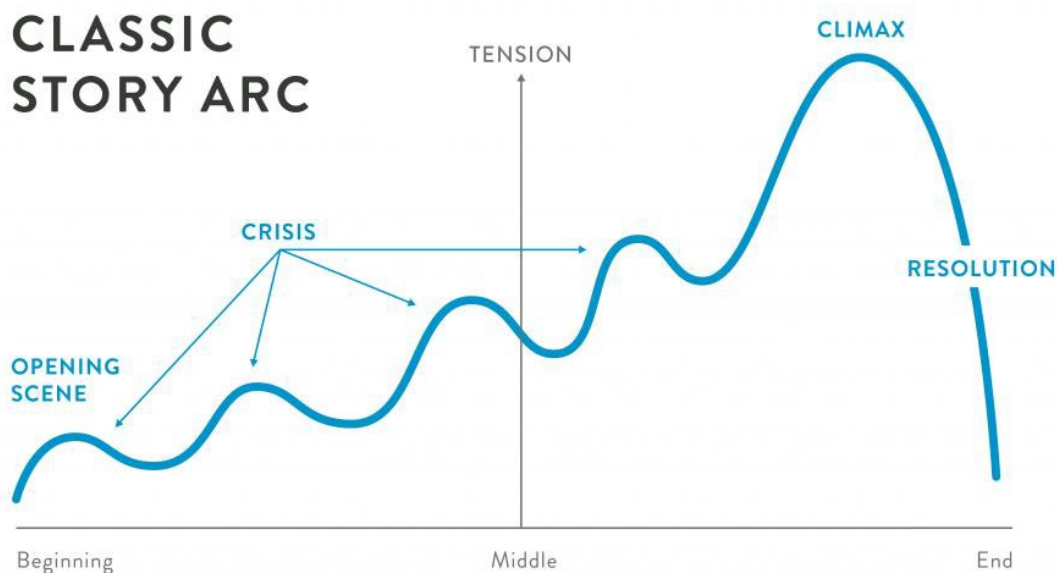
5. What would happen if he got what he wanted? What if he didn't?

CHARACTERS AND STORY ARC

Looking at the worksheet, page one establishes who the character is at the beginning of the story.

On the second page –

- numbers 1 and 2 set up the beginning of the story
- Numbers 3 and 4 create the story line and develop tension. Students can add to these as the story progresses.
- Number 5 helps to identify the ending. How do you want the story to end? There are choices to be made.
- Adding on – what happens if the character gets what he thought he wanted but the result becomes yet another problem? That creates rising tension.



Another way to see this is as three questions:

- A. What is the character like in the beginning. What is his normal life?
- B. What happens to change that? What are the important things that happen to change him?
- C. What does he learn or experience that makes him different at the end? What is he like now?