MULTIMEDIA

If people weren't meant to fly, why were we given imaginations?

EHRLICH'S

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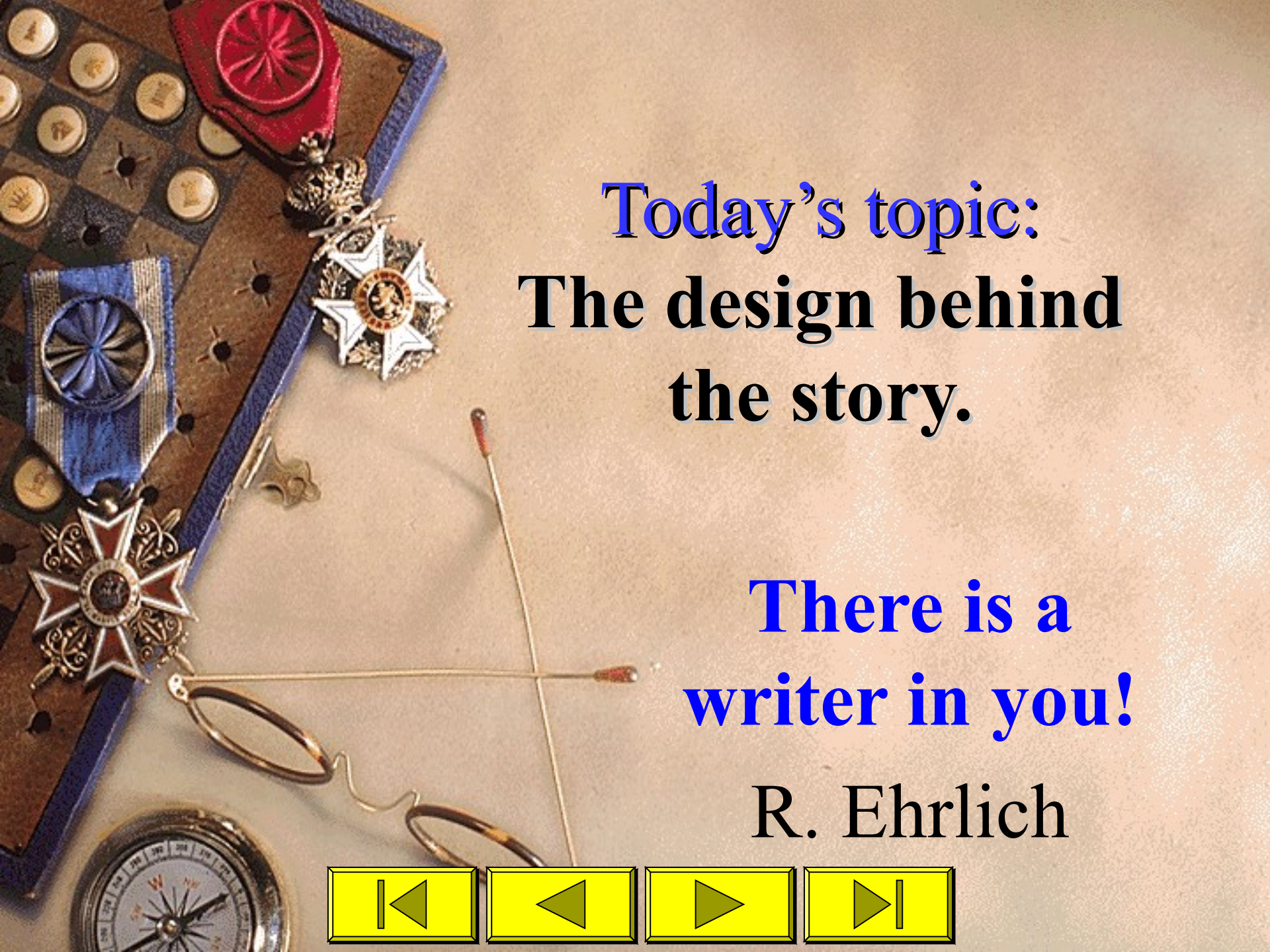
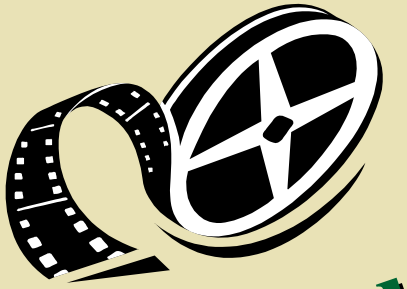

Today's topic:
The design behind the story.
There is a writer in you!
R. Ehrlich

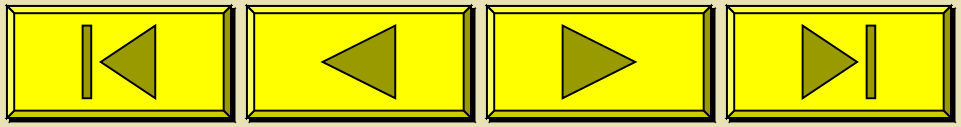
Go to the movies?

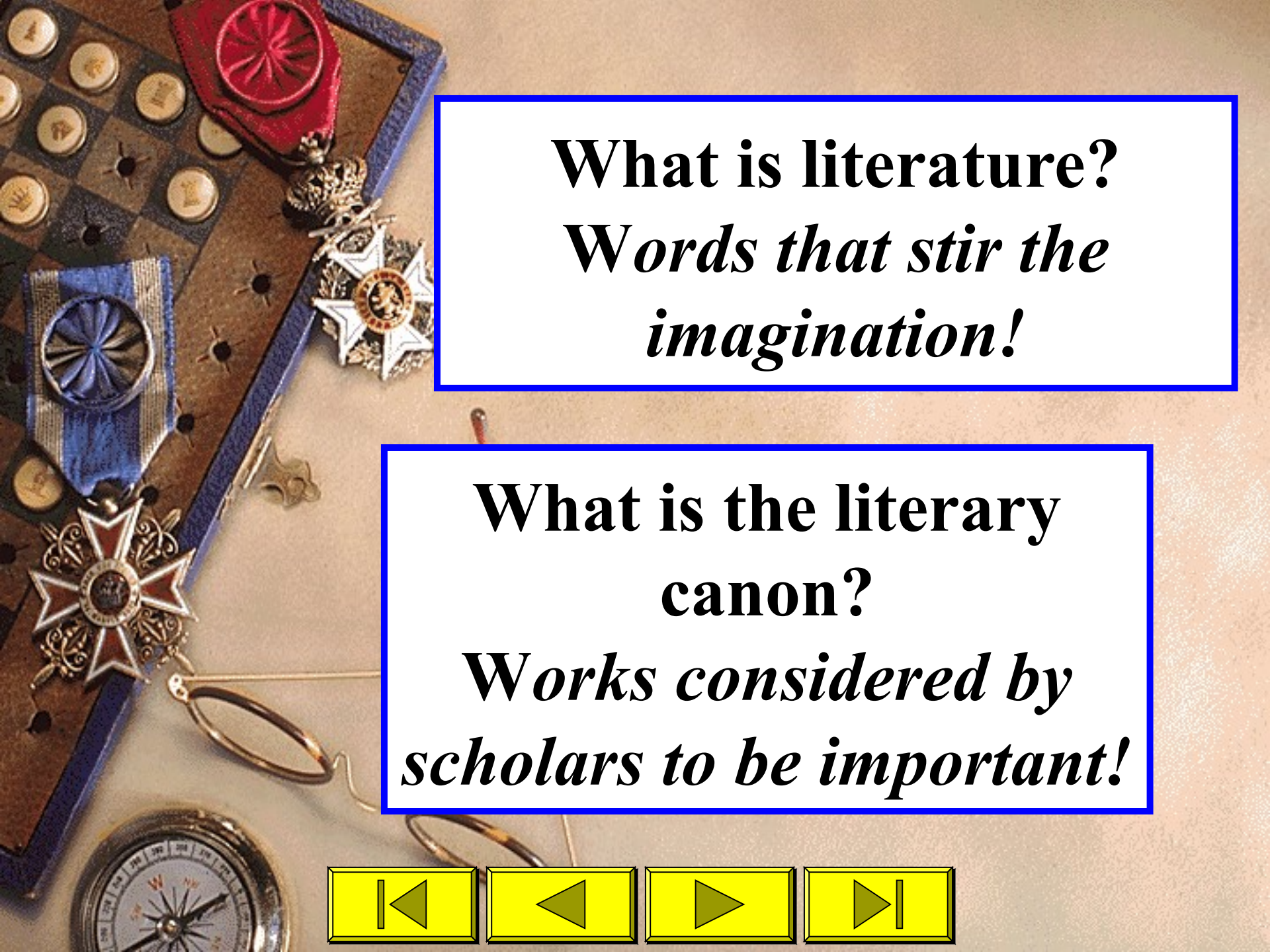


Watch television shows?

Read books or stories?

What do all these things have in common? Stories!




What is literature?
Words that stir the imagination!
What is the literary canon?
Works considered by scholars to be important!

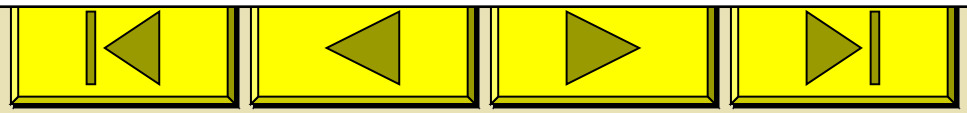
Why do people read?

- Stories nourish our emotional lives.
- They let us enter new worlds.
- They broaden our perspectives.
- They help us develop thought.
- They help encourage new ideas.
- In general, stories change us!

READ THIS

If this story had a recipe, what INGREDIENTS would you need to make it work?

In other words, what makes this a story worth reading?

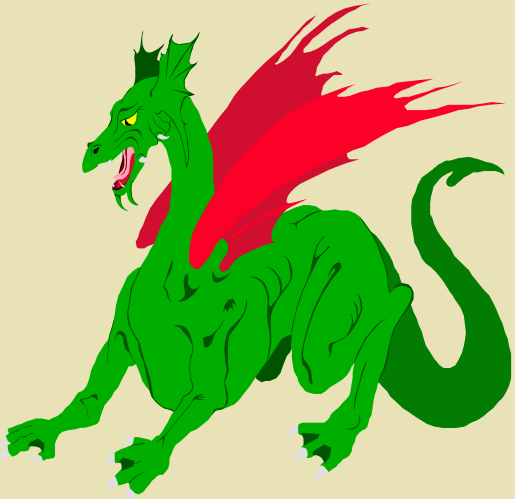


What does a story need to work?

Characters.

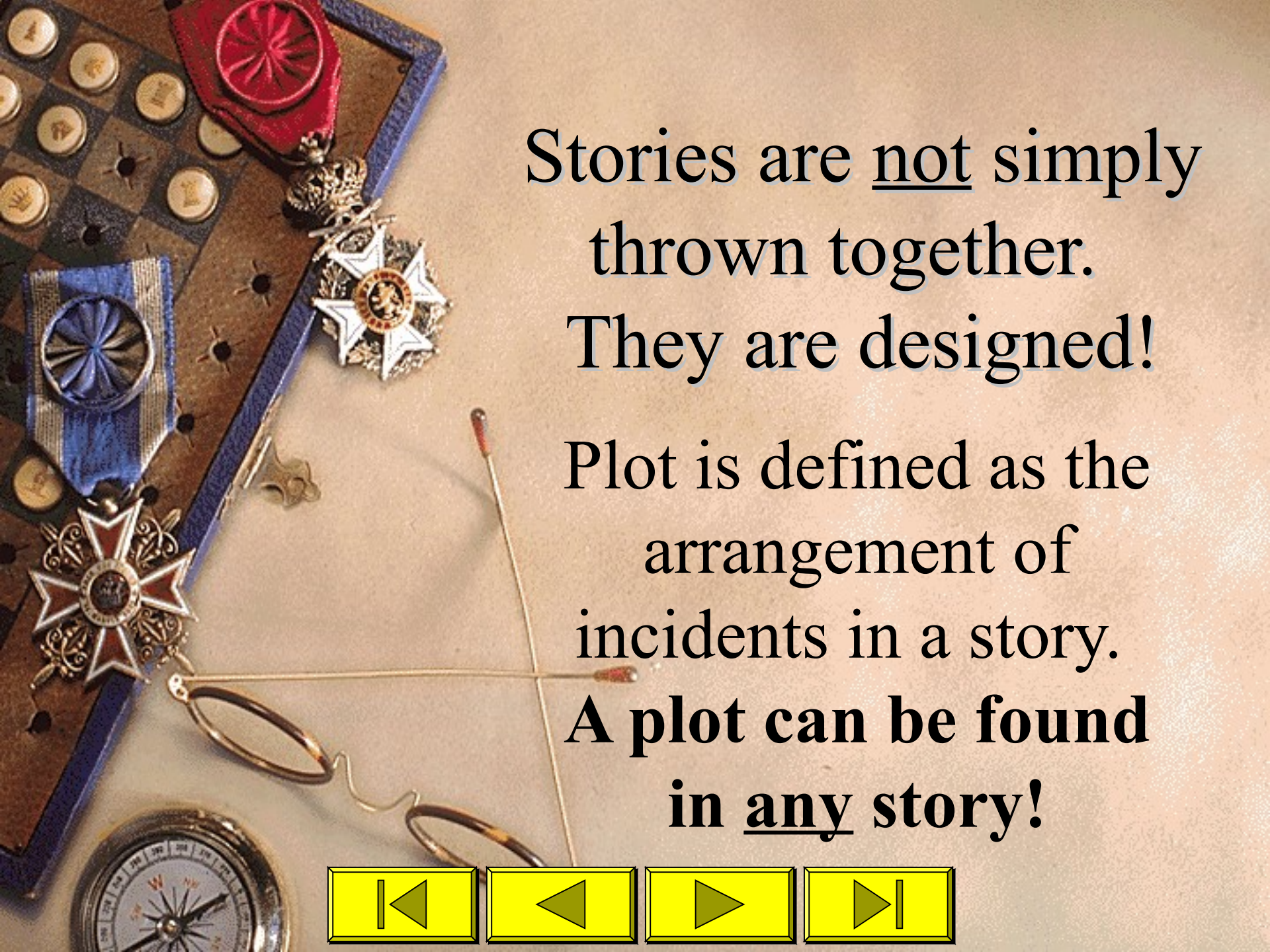
Setting(s).

Symbolism.



Themes.

Plot. Plot?


Stories are not simply thrown together. They are designed!
Plot is defined as the arrangement of incidents in a story.
A plot can be found in any story!

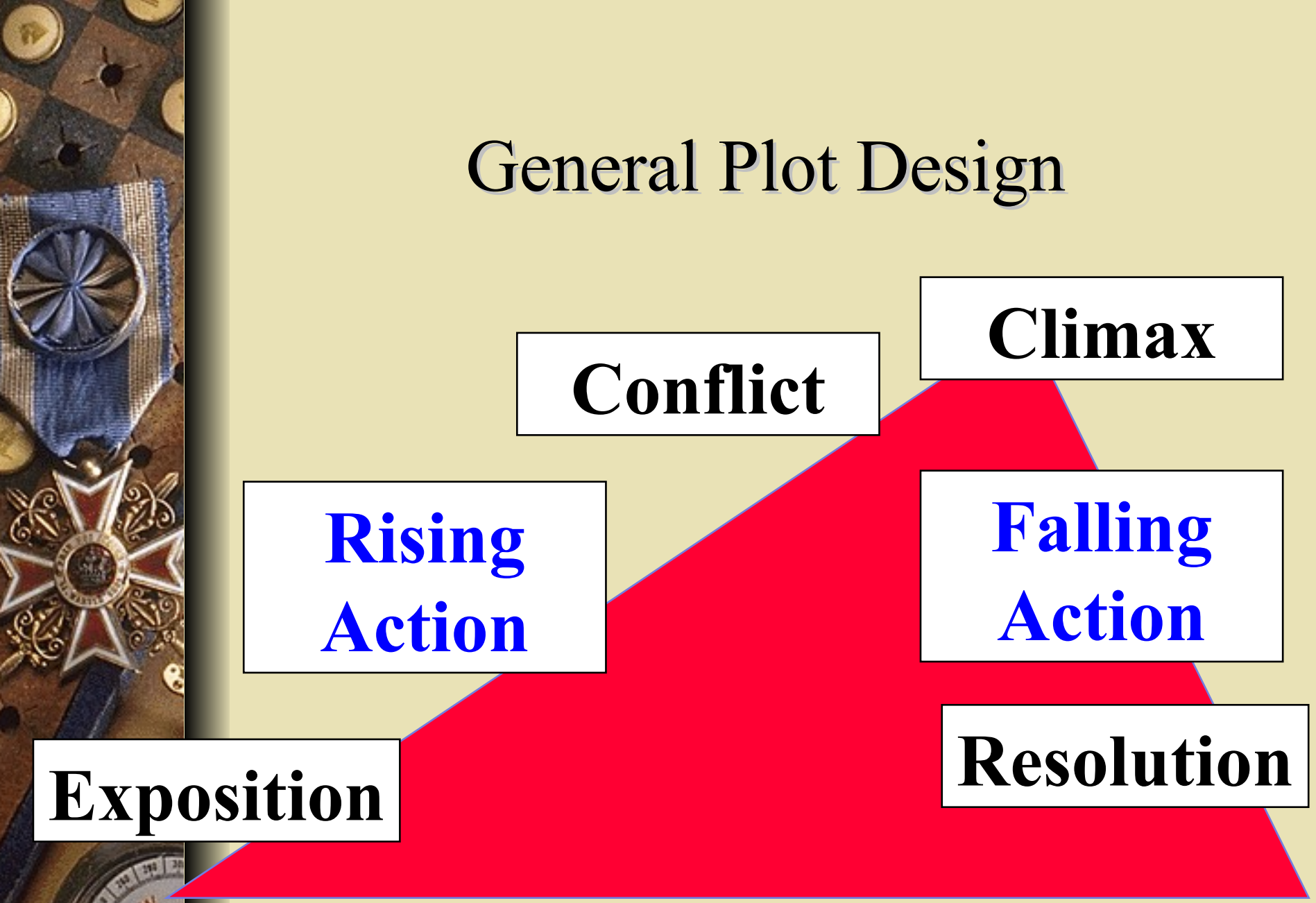
A note:

Most fiction is written to a general
igure books, often found next
the grocery register, are written as
fiction.

Formula fiction-type books are often called Dime Novels!

Boy meets girl ->
girl gets in trouble ->
boy saves girl!

General Plot Design



Plot Design: Exposition

Exposition:

Provides background information about character(s) and/or story.

Exposition

Plot Design: Conflict

Conflict

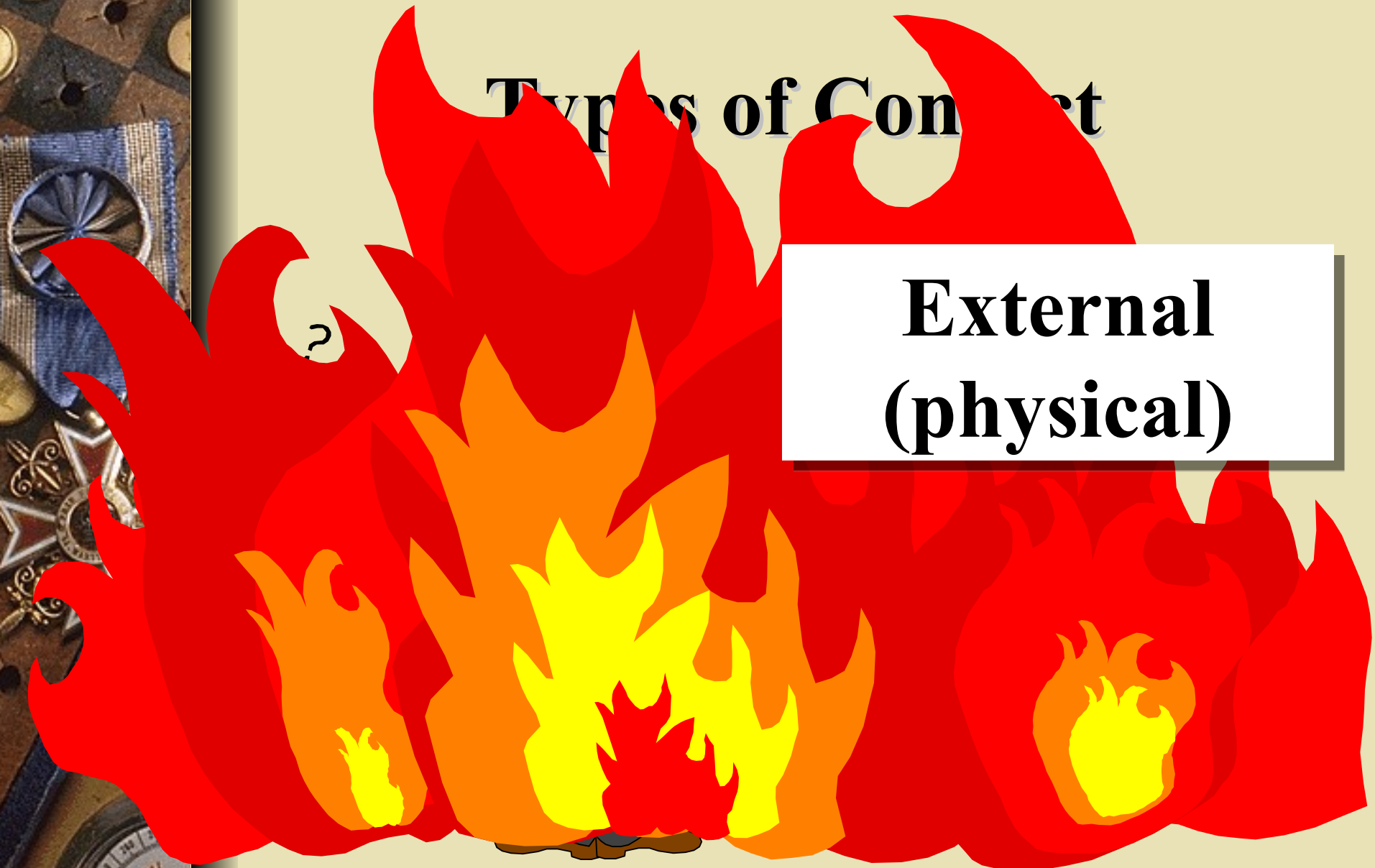
Conflict:

The struggle between opposing forces.

E.g. *Bill must save the girl from King Kong.*

Jimmy wants to steal the candy.

Types of Conflict



External (physical)

Plot Design: Climax

Climax

Climax:

The deciding moment; a turning point.

E.g. *The police and the criminal shoot at one another.*

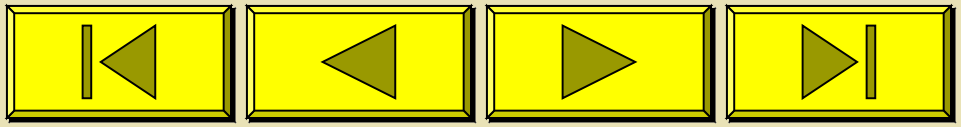
Plot Design: Resolution

Denouement/Resolution:

The result or conclusion of the plot's conflict.

E.g. *The criminal goes to jail.*

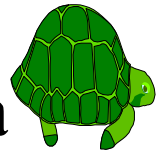
Denouement / Resolution



Can you figure out the plot of a story?

Directions:

1) Read the story of the hare and the turtle.
2) Identify the exposition, the conflict, the climax, and the resolution.

There once was a and a  . The hare ridiculed the turtle because of his short legs and slow pace. So, the turtle challenged him to a race around a mountain road.

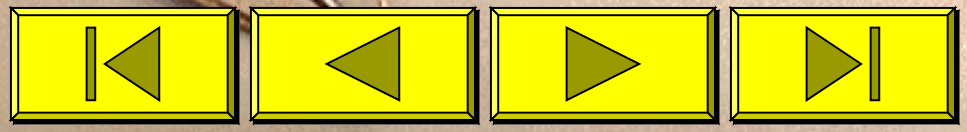
The hare accepted and the race began. Comfortable with his speed, the hare laid down and took a nap. The turtle continued steadily on and "raced" by.

The hare awoke to the sound of the crowd congratulating the turtle for winning.

STORIES OFTEN CONTAIN SUBPLOTS!

SUBPLOTS are stories within stories.

Be careful to not mix the plot with the subplots.



Oral Quiz
What do you know?

What do you know?

What is the exposition?

What is the conflict?

What is the climax?

What is the resolution?

A final note . . .
Stories can be set up in a variety of ways, including:

- Chronological
- Flashback
- In media res

For 99 percent of all novels, conflict is the core of the plot. Without it, there is no tension and there's no reason to turn the page.

-- Rita Mae Brown

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