



Student Tasks:

- Identify the key stages of the narrative arc in the text.
- Complete the narrative arc graphic organizer.
- Share their narrative arcs with a partner and discuss their findings.
- Reflect on how the narrative arc enhances their understanding of the story.
- Consider how the narrative arc can be applied to their own writing for greater impact.

Online ThinkCERCA Modules:

- Complex texts
- Tools for scaffolding reading (focus mode, translation, picture dictionary, online glossary, audio support, syllabication, part of speech, etc.)

Narrative Arc

Understanding the structure of a story through its narrative arc

Suggested Time 20-30 Minutes

Strategy

The Narrative Arc strategy helps students understand the structure of a story by breaking it down into its key stages: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. This method provides a framework for analyzing how stories unfold and how characters develop throughout the narrative.

Optimal Application Notes:

This strategy promotes critical thinking and deeper comprehension of narrative structure. Teachers should model the process using a familiar text before allowing students to apply it independently.

Before:

- Choose a piece of text that has a clear narrative structure (e.g., a short story, novel excerpt, or film).
- Prepare a graphic organizer that outlines the stages of the narrative arc for each student.
- Ensure students have access to the text for reference during the activity.

During:

- Distribute the narrative arc graphic organizers to students after they finish reading.
- Instruct students to label each section of the organizer with the appropriate stage of the narrative arc:
 - **Exposition:** What is the background, setting, and introduction of characters?
 - **Rising Action:** What conflicts, quests, or key choices occur that build tension?
 - **Climax:** What is the turning point of the story or moment of highest tension?
 - **Falling Action:** How does the tension begin to reduce, and what events lead to the resolution?
 - **Resolution:** How does the story conclude, and what are the final outcomes?
- Encourage students to provide evidence from the text to support their answers at each stage.

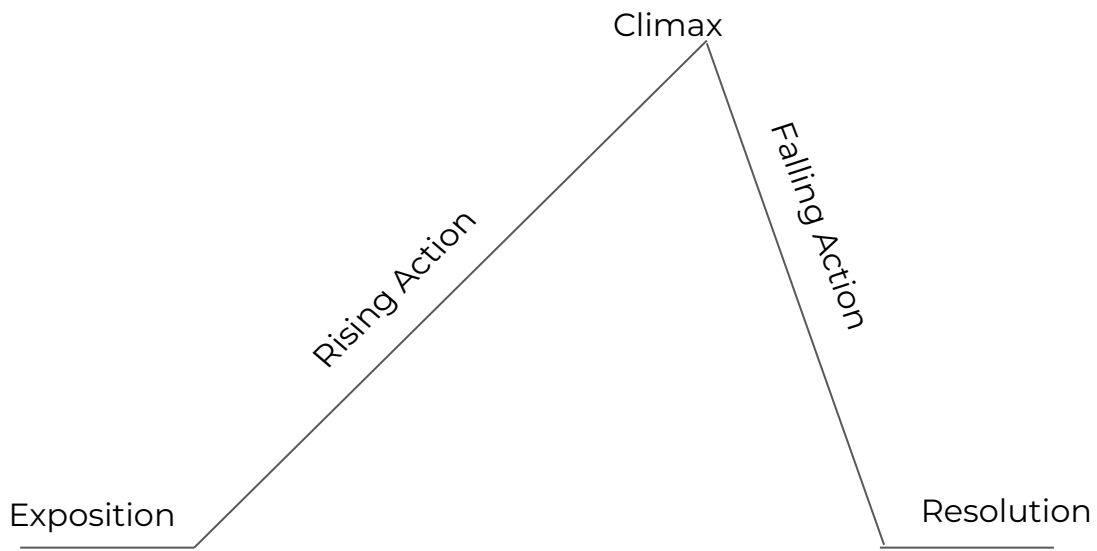
After:

- Facilitate a class discussion where students share their narrative arcs, focusing on the different components and how they connect to the overall story.
- Encourage students to compare their arcs with peers, exploring different interpretations of the text.

Narrative Arc

Plotting the Story

Instructions: As you explore the text, use the narrative arc, which shows how a story develops from beginning to end to dive deeper. In the graphic organizer, identify the key stages: Exposition (where the story begins), Rising Action (where the conflict builds), Climax (the turning point), Falling Action (the events leading to the resolution), and Resolution (how the story concludes). For each stage, write down important details and examples from the text. Once you complete the organizer, share your insights with a partner to discuss how the narrative arc shapes the story!



The Narrative Arc	
Exposition	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution	