

Plot Line

Time to Complete:	10 minutes
Mission:	To take you through the individual events that happen in a particular scene or portion of your story.
Outcome:	You will have a solid understanding of the basic thread of events that happen in a plot.
Potential Difficulty:	It might be hard to start from scratch. It's ok to use an existing story, situation, character, or setting to complete the exercise.
Steps to Complete the Exercise:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Before you start, pick a random plot box and, right next to the heading text, write in the word 'twist'. This is the point where you will introduce a twist to the plot line, which will help make things more interesting and original. You can have the twist happen in any of the 6 main boxes.2. Now, in the Who box, describe a character who has a particular trait (or traits).3. In the Wants box, describe what the character wants to accomplish. This is not necessarily the ultimate goal of the whole story but just the goal of this particular plot line.4. In the But box, describe the problem, obstacle, or shortcoming that prevents the character from achieving the goal.5. In the And box, increase the tension and conflict by adding a secondary obstacle that may or may not be associated with the first obstacle.6. In the Action box, describe what the character does to achieve their desired outcome. This is the conscious choice the character makes to get something they want.7. In the Outcome box, describe how the action the character takes achieves all or some part of their initial desires. This does not have to be the stories ultimate goal.
Ways to Avoid Failure:	You might get stuck if you think too literally about a particular word and feel like you must stick strictly to one definition. It's ok to just go with your intuition and interpret what something might mean. It's your own interpretation of an idea that can inspire new, creative results.