STORY LOGIC NET

Freytag's Pyramid - Crisis

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Crisis:

Crisis means decision or dilemma. It is a point in a story or drama when a conflict reaches its highest tension and must be resolved.

In a story, it's the do-or-die moment, that last chance where the protagonist must gather all their strength, ingenuity, resourcefulness, and courage in one final effort to defeat the opposing forces guarding the prize

Ideas

- Choose between two bad options (Best Bad Choice). Ask yourself "Would you rather…"
- Choose between a good and a bad option
- Choose between two positives that do not work together (e.g. gain money or love? Be comfortable or live an adventure? Be happy or make others happy? Success or family?)
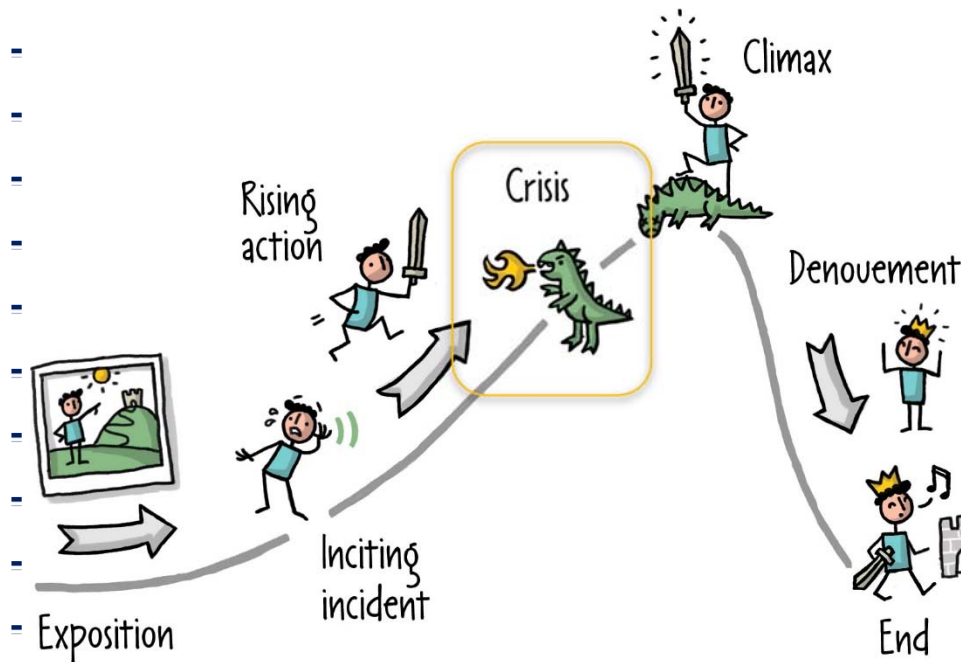
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Instructions

Print out the card and give it to a student or a group of students. Ask them to try and create a crisis situation for their story. Ask them to utilize the ideas written in the back of the card. If needed, ask reflective questions to help them be more accurate.

Suggestions

1. It is a good idea to use post-it notes on a large piece of paper to describe the individual events and brainstorm. This will allow easier corrections if needed.
2. Ask the students to write down all ideas in a brainstorming session. Then filter them and keep the needed ones. Gradually the students will improve and become more accurate.
3. Pose reflective questions on the events. For example, ask why is the proposed dilemma important for the main character, what does the character have to lose or gain in each possible choice, how evident does the dilemma emerge from the rising action events, if the outcomes could be more (and what could happen then), if and how the dilemma is connected to the main character's qualities, how an event is connected with the disrupted balance (usually it is a dilemma that wasn't there before the disruption).
4. Select stories that the children are familiar with and pin point the crisis elements and their connection with the exposition and the characters. This will help understand this section better
5. It is an interesting/supportive idea to use logic diagrams in order to record the outcomes for every choice that the character could make in the crisis situation and discuss the validity of the next steps