

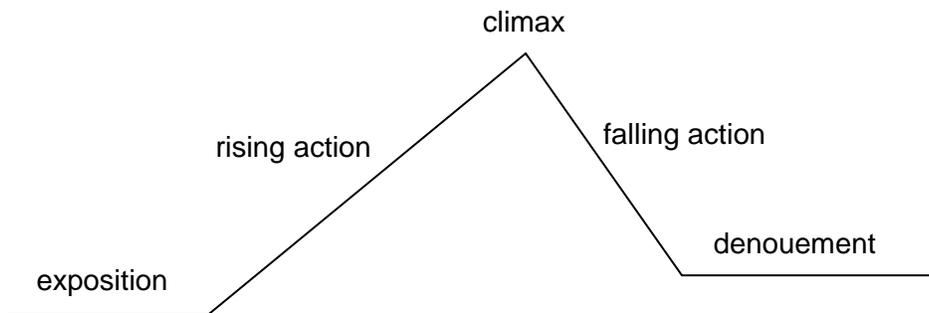
Chapters 47—50

Standards Focus: Analyzing the Elements of Plot

One of the things about *Holes* that you might have noticed is how certain elements fit together: Kate Barlow, Stanley’s great-grandfather, Madame Zeroni, a pair of tennis shoes, and Big Thumb. At the beginning of the story, these seem like random items and people. As the novel progresses, you probably noticed that they begin fitting together. By the end of the novel, you realize they are all essential to the novel’s outcome.

The last chapter “Filling in the Holes” ties up all the pieces and confirms the reader’s hypothesis about the curse and who Zero really is. This tying up of loose ends is a good example of *denouement* (day – new – maw) which follows the falling action of a plot.

Part I: Take a closer look at the plot.
You’ve probably seen a plot line like the one below.



1. The *exposition* is the portion of the novel where the characters, setting, and problem are introduced. Read over your notes from the first section of the novel.

List three things you think are important in setting up the novel.

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Before looking at the rising action, what is the *climax* (the life-changing moment for the main character) of *Holes*? _____

Name _____ Period _____

3. The *rising action* takes up the largest portion of the novel. Read over your notes from the middle section of the novel. What are three important events that you felt lead to the climax of the story?

- _____

- _____

- _____

4. What questions did you want answered in the *denouement* of the novel? List two of those questions that you still had at the end of Chapter 49. _____

5. What was your favorite part of the novel? What scene stands out in your mind as the most exciting, interesting, or vivid? Write your answer below and explain why you think that. _____

6. Why is "Filling in the Holes" an appropriate title for the last chapter of the book?

