

3.5.4 Narrative structure (All students)

Narrative as hypertext

While you have created the beginnings of a site map for your short story, it would be impractical to create a webpage for each small section. The narrative needs further organisation for navigation and reading purposes.

Use one of the narrative structures below to organise your story sections. Copy the headings from your sections into Column C

Narrative structure 1

A	B	C
ONE	1. Stasis – the current situation and characters in everyday life	
	2. Trigger – the inciting event that sets the plot in motion	
TWO	3. The quest – the trigger results in the character needing to accomplish some goal	
	4. Surprise – a series of events presents obstacles that make achieving the goal more difficult	
	5. Critical choice – the character must choose a particular path to confront the obstacles	
	6. Climax – the critical choice results in the climax of the story, the highest peak of tension	
THREE	7. Reversal – the consequences of the critical choice changes the status of the character	
	8. Resolution – the story ends at a new point of stasis, and the character is changed in some way	





Narrative structure 2

A	B	C
ACT ONE	Exposition: The start of the story, the situation before the action starts	
ACT TWO	Rising action: the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax	
ACT THREE	Climax: the turning point, the most intense moment – either mentally or in action	
ACT FOUR	Falling Action: all of the action which follows the climax	
ACT FIVE	Falling Action: all of the action which follows the climax	

Headings

Convert the headings in column A into headings that are designed for reading on the web. The first few have been done for you. These will help a user navigate your story through these scannable snippets.

A	B
Suitable for print readers	Suitable for web users
Many people travel take adventure holidays	Adventure holidays popular
The Blues soccer team is playing in the final in Perth	Perth final for Blues
The poor economy is causing people to lose their savings	
People in Australia buy record numbers of mobile phones	
John Brown's first novel 'Earthquake' has been well received by the critics.	

