

# Story, Form, Plot, Structure

- Conflict, Crisis, and Resolution
  - 3-D: Drama equals desire plus danger
  - Aristotle's claim: man is his desire
  - fiction is a form of human yearning
  - the most profound impediments to our desire usually lie close to home, in our own bodies, personalities, friends, lovers, and families
  - man against man, man against nature, man against society, man against machine, man against God, man against himself
- The arc of the story
  - a story is about a single moment in a character's life that culminates in a defining choice after which nothing will be the same again
    1. get your fighters fighting

2. make something—the stake—worth their fighting over
3. have the fight dive into a series of battles, with the last battle in the series the biggest and most dangerous of all
4. show a walking away from the fight
5. stake usually over “territory”

- Patterns of power

- Each antagonist have sufficient power that the reader is left in doubt about the outcome
- shifting power back and forth from one antagonist to the other
- power takes the form of
  - physical strength
  - charm
  - knowledge
  - moral power

- wealth
  - ownership
  - rank
  - etc.
- Connection and disconnection
  - Whereas the dynamic of the power struggle has long been acknowledged, narrative is also driven by a pattern of connection and disconnection between characters that is the main source of its emotional effect
  - Over the course of a story, and within the smaller scale of a scene, characters make and break emotional bonds of trust, love, understanding, or compassion with one another
  - Story form as an inverted check mark