

“Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara

Literary Analysis: Plot

Plot is the sequence of related events in a short story. As you read, identify the following parts of the story’s plot:

- **Exposition:** the basic information about the characters and the situation
- **Conflict:** a struggle between two opposing forces in the story
- **Rising action:** the events in the story that increase the tension that readers feel
- **Climax:** the high point of the story, usually the point at which the eventual outcome is revealed
- **Falling action:** the events that follow the climax
- **Resolution:** the final outcome

A. DIRECTIONS: *The following six sentences describe the plot of “Raymond’s Run,” but they are out of order. Write a number on the line before each part to indicate the order in which the event takes place in the story. Then, write the name of the plot part that the event represents. The parts of the plot are exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.*

- ___ 1. _____ Squeaky and Gretchen congratulate each other.
- ___ 2. _____ Squeaky looks after her older brother, and she anticipates a race.
- ___ 3. _____ Squeaky stands up for her brother and defends her reputation as the fastest runner in the neighborhood.
- ___ 4. _____ The race ends, and Raymond begins to climb the fence that separates him from the runners.
- ___ 5. _____ Squeaky meets a group of girls from the neighborhood while practicing for the race.
- ___ 6. _____ Squeaky realizes that Raymond could be a good runner and thinks about coaching him.

B. DIRECTIONS: *Look at the sentences you labeled “rising action” and “falling action.” On the lines below, write two details that describe the rising action of “Raymond’s Run” and two details that describe the falling action. The details might describe events, actions, a conversation, or a character’s thoughts.*

Rising action:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Falling action:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____