

A common way to structure a plot is:

- **Stage 1 – exposition:** Characters are introduced, setting is established and 'situations are set up; for example, 'boy meets girl'.
- **Stage 2 – complication:** A problem arises which affects the main character/s; for example, 'boy loses girl'.
- **Stage 3 – resolution:** The problem is resolved; for example, 'boy gets girl back and they live happily ever after'.

Crisis points

As we saw earlier when talking about plot, a crisis point is an important moment when an issue or problem comes to a head. A decision might need to be made or a battle fought, for example. These are important because it is in these moments that characters often reveal what sorts of people they are and what things are important to them.

Activity 2.8

1. Fill out the table below with details about the plot of your own text. Use the example as a guide.

	Exposition	Complication	Crisis	Resolution
<i>Twelve Angry Men</i>	The Judge's voice makes us aware of the jury's 'duty' and 'grave responsibility' to decide on a verdict and the audience 'meets' the 12 jurors.	The 8th Juror causes conflict because he does not vote 'guilty' with the others and is compelled to justify his reasons for having 'reasonable doubt'.	The 8th Juror accuses the 3rd Juror of being a 'self-appointed public avenger' and a 'sadist' (p.47) and is attacked by the 3rd Juror.	The 3rd Juror finally votes 'not guilty', making the vote unanimous.
Your text:				

2. Think about a crisis point in your text. Describe what happens.

3. What does the behaviour of the main character during this crisis point reveal about him or her? _____
