

## Structuring your Story

Every story should have a beginning a middle and an end, although as Jean Luc Godard reminded us, not necessarily in that order. Even in its simplest form your story should have shape and structure. Using classic story elements here's how it works.

**Set up:**

Three bears go for a stroll through the woods while their porridge cools.

**Complication:**

A hungry blonde breaks in to the bears' cottage.

**Rising Action:**

The blonde helps herself to some porridge, breaks a chair and takes a nap.

**Meanwhile:**

The bears arrive home and are horrified by the break-in.

**Climax:**

Discovered sleeping in Baby bear's bed, the blonde makes a run for it.

**Denouement:**

Despite this traumatic misadventure the bears live happily ever after.

It's interesting that the word 'Denouement' can often be confused with the 'Climax'. It literally means untying or disengaging and has come to mean the final section of a story in which all the trouble that has ensued is resolved.