“Boar Out There”

By Cynthia Rylant

(Short Story Unit of Study)
EXPOSITION

is the first part of a story

EXPOSITION

* Characters
* Setting

INCITING INCIDENT

CLIMAX

RISING ACTION

FALLING ACTION

DENOUEMENT/RESOLUTION

Theme/Message
EXPOSITION

• is the first part of a story
  —the **explanation** that must come before a story can be told

• Provides important **background information**:
  • **Characters** (who the story is about)
  • **Setting** (time and place)

No real action has occurred yet
EXPOSITION
Reveals Setting

- Readers pay attention to setting clues.

ex.: “Everyone in Glen Morgan knew there was a wild boar in the woods over by the Miller farm.”
EXPOSITION

Reveals Characters

- Readers take note of characters’ names.

ex.: “The boar was out beyond the splintery rail fence...”

ex.: “Jenny would hook her chin over the top rail of the fence, twirl a long green blade of grass in her teeth and whisper, “Boar out there.”
INCITING INCIDENT is the event that sets a story in motion.
INCITING INCIDENT

- Readers take note of a change in action.

- The **inciting incident** is the event that sets a story in motion.

  ex.: “One hot summer day she went to find the boar.”
RISING ACTION

Actions occurring after the inciting incident that build excitement or tension

EXPOSITION
* Characters
* Setting

INCITING INCIDENT

CLIMAX

FALLING ACTION

DENOUEMENT/ RESOLUTION

Theme/Message
RISING ACTION

- Actions occurring after the inciting incident that build excitement or tension

ex.: “Moving slowly over damp brown leaves, Jenny could sense her ears tingle and fan out as she listened for thick breathing from the trees.”

ex.: “Finally, leaning against a tree to rest, she heard him for the first time. She forgot to breathe, standing there listening to the stamping of hooves, and she choked and coughed.”
CLIMAX

- Is the most exciting part and a **turning point**
- Makes the outcome of the conflict clear.

ex.: “High in the trees a bluejay yelled, and, suddenly, it was over. Jenny stood like a rock as the boar wildly flung his head and in terror bolted past her. “
FALLING ACTION

- Eases the tension of the story
- Shows **how** the main character resolves the conflict.

ex.: “And now, since the summer, Jenny still hooks her chin over the old rail fence, and she still whispers, “Boar out there.” But when she leans on the fence, looking into the trees, her eyes are full and she leaves wet patches on the splintery wood. She is sorry for the torn ears of the boar and sorry that he has no golden horn.”
RESOLUTION

- Reveals how everything turns out.
- Sometimes called the **Denouement**

ex.: “But mostly she is sorry that he lives in fear of bluejays and little girls, when everyone in Glen Morgan lives in fear of him.”
Other Short Story Elements

**Protagonist** – The main character in the story that is involved in the main conflict. The protagonist usually undergoes some change as the story unfolds.

ex.: The *protagonist* in “Boar Out There” was Jenny.
Other Short Story Elements

**Antagonist** – The force working against the protagonist. Antagonist is usually another character but can be a force of nature, society, or internal.

ex.: The *antagonist* in “Boar Out There” was the boar.
Other Short Story Elements

- **Conflict** – is a struggle between opposing forces.

- **Conflict** can be an:
  
  External Conflict – against a force outside himself/herself (such as nature, physical obstacle, or another character.)

  Internal Conflict – is one that occurs within the character.

ex.: The conflict in “Boar Out There” was internal because it was Jenny’s fear of the boar.