

3.12 Falling Action and Resolution

Hip and Hop limp out of the jungle and on to the beach. In the distance, a ship sails by.

Hop: A ship!!! A ship!!!! Hip, do something!!!!

Hip: I love this part of the story.

Hop: What part?

Hip: FALLING ACTION and RESOLUTION.

Hop: Me too. (*panicking*) Now can you please do something so we can get out of this horrible jungle!!!

Hip: (*lost in thought*) Yes... the falling action. The point where we know that the worst is behind us. We're just sort of coasting until we get to the resolution.

Hop: Stop coasting and get us out of here!!

Hip: Do you remember how the fanged jungle-frog bit you, and injected you with that toxin, and for a moment, you thought you were a jungle parrot?

Hop: Of course.

Hip: And at the same time your hallucinations caused you to climb that tree so that you could fly away, I was fighting the saber-toothed jungle kangaroos in order to get you the antidote for the fanged jungle-frog's venom?

Hop: Yes, I remember it was the worst thing I ever had to go through.

Hip: Of course it was the worst thing... it was the climax of our story. But once I was able to karate kick all of the saber-toothed jungle-kangaroos, and steal the anti-venom from their nest, I was then able to fashion a dart-gun, which I used to shoot the anti-venom into your neck just before you jumped out of the tree.

Hop: Only problem was that the dart hurt so much that I still fell out of the tree ANYWAY!!!

Hip: Yes, but it was during your fall that you spotted the ocean, where we stand now. So, it was the ending of the climax that led to the falling action that we're in now.

Hop: But we won't have a good resolution if you don't do something to let that ship know we're here.

Hip: (*snapping out of his thoughts*) Oh! Right! (*digging through his/her bag*) Where is it?

Hip removes a flare-gun from his/her backpack, points it into the air, and fires a shell that explodes in the sky.

Hop: Do you think they saw us?

Hip: I'm not sure, Hop. During the falling action, the outcome or the "resolution" is usually obvious, but it's just a matter of getting there. (*pause*) Look! The ship is going to round that peninsula, maybe if we take that shortcut through the jungle, we can cut it off.

Hop: I'm not going into that jungle anymore!

Hip: It's the only way.

Hop: *(crosses his/her arms for a moment to be stubborn, but gives in)* Fine. Last time, though!

Hip: Let's go.

Hip and Hop run through the jungle and reach the other side of the peninsula.

Hop: Now what?

Hip pulls out the flare gun and shoots it just in front of the passing ship.

Hop: Please, please see us.

A HORN sounds on the ship.

Hop: *(excited)* That means they saw us right?

Hip: Yes, it does.

The ship starts to turn and heads directly toward Hop and Hip. Hop runs toward the ocean and jumps in, and then he/she swims toward the boat. Hip follows Hop's lead, and jumps in the water, also.

Hop: We're saved. We're saved.

Hip: Be careful for the jungle sharks, I mean sharks.

Hop: *(scared)* Sharks?

Hip: *(laughing)* Just kidding. Like I said before, during the falling action, the worst is behind us. So if anything, the sharks might just nibble us, but they probably won't eat us... unless of course that's the resolution. *(pauses to think)* SWIM FASTER!!!

Hop and Hip swim quickly toward the boat and are pulled in by some sailors. Hop and Hip lay on the deck exhausted.

Hop: I can't believe we've made it.

Hip: The resolution is clear – we've made it safely out of the jungle and will now get to go back to our homes. The story is complete; the outcome is certain – all things ended happily.

Hop: How do you know that this is the resolution?

Hip: The resolution is when the major conflicts are resolved. In our case, the major conflict was us against nature. The question that we had to ask at the very beginning of our story was, "will we make it out of the jungle safely?" Now that that question has been resolved, the story is over, and we are going to go home. The only thing that could prevent this from being the resolution is if a new INCITING INCIDENT throws us back into the dramatic structure again.

Offstage mumbling is heard.

Hop: What did that guy say?

Hip: It appears we've been picked up by pirates who plan to hold us for ransom, so I'm afraid that we have another adventure in store for us.

Hop: I hate cruise ships.

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Post-Reading Activity

A. Define the following terms.

Falling Action:

Resolution:

B. Think about the ending of your favorite book or movie.

1. What do you think was the falling action?

2. What do you think was the resolution?