

◆ Kinds of prose :

- 1- Fiction
- 2- The novel
- 3- The short story
- 4- Composition
- 5- Essay
- 6- Biography
- 13 - Sermon
- 7- History
- 8- Criticism
- 9- Journal
- 10 - Letters
- 11 - Philosophy
- 12 - Speech

◆ A short story is an invented narrative/prose, like the novel but brief. It deals with few characters and events. It aims at the unity of effect, that's why it concentrates on mood rather than plot.

What are the oldest forms of storytelling?

They are epic, for example 'Beowulf' and drama, for example *Macbeth* and a third long form is the novel.

What are the main characteristics of the classic style of the short story?

1. It is limited to a single series of events.
2. It introduces one main character or at most two.
3. It establishes a dominant mood (sad/happy/mysterious...etc.), because the events are limited.
4. The writer pictures life realistically and introduces economic, social and moral problems.

Who is the prominent story teller or writer?

One of the greatest story writers is Somerset Maugham. He is a story writer of the highest rank, because his stories are written with skill and craftsmanship.

ELEMENTS OF THE SHORT STORY

1. Plot

It is a sequence of related events. It is one of the most basic elements of the short story.

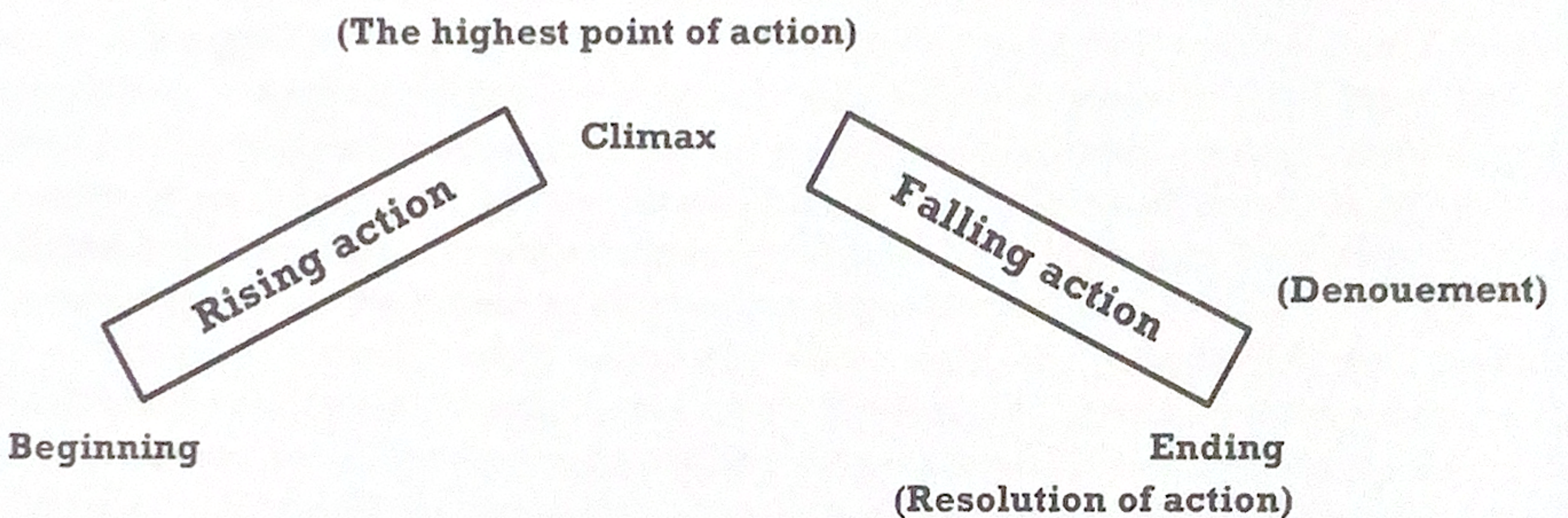


## 2. Conflict

It is a physical contest between the main character and another character, (two opposing) characters or groups of characters or it may be a moral struggle between the central character and a universal force or power like fate, nature or an institution in society like law, the educational system or the bourgeoisie (Middle class).

## 3. Development and Movement of Action

The plot could be illustrated in a diagram as follows:



## 4. Characters

A character is the agent that acts and achieves the action.

Characters are of two types:

### 1. Active

It develops and undergoes a significant moral and spiritual transformation in personality and ideas.

### 2. Static (passive character)

It remains the same without an increase in awareness or change in character.

## 5. Theme

It is the idea that the author of the story wants to communicate.

## 6. Narration

It is the act of telling a story. The story is usually told from the point of view of the major character (the central character) or a minor character. The first person pronoun (I) or the third person pronouns are used in this respect.