Plot Diagram For Rikki Tikki Tavi

Plot Diagram for Rikki Tikki Tavi: A Step-by-Step Guide

When studying Roald Dahl's classic short story *Rikki Tikki Tavi*, one of the most effective ways to grasp its structure is by drawing a plot diagram. A plot diagram visually breaks down the narrative into its core components—exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution—making it easier for students and readers alike to analyze how Dahl builds tension and delivers a satisfying conclusion. In this article, we'll walk through the essential steps for creating a plot diagram for Rikki Tikki Tavi, explore why it's useful, and provide a sample diagram to serve as a reference.

Why Create a Plot Diagram for Rikki Tikki Tavi?

Plot diagrams help readers:

- **Identify key events:** Spot the moments that drive the story forward.
- **Understand pacing:** See how the tension escalates and then resolves.
- **Analyze character development:** Observe how Rikki's actions change his role from a stray to a hero.
- **Enhance critical thinking:** Encourage deeper discussion about themes such as bravery and loyalty.

For teachers, a plot diagram can serve as a visual aid in classroom discussions, while for students, it provides a clear framework to prepare essays or presentations.

Step-by-Step: Building Your Plot Diagram

1. **Read the story carefully:** Highlight the major events and turning points.
2. **Identify the exposition:** Note the setting (a bungalow in India), the main characters (Rikki, the house cat, and the snake), and the initial situation (the snake's threat to the family).
3. **Outline the rising action:** List the series of encounters between Rikki and the snake, including the first warning from the house cat and the subsequent battles.
4. **Pinpoint the climax:** Highlight the final showdown where Rikki confronts the two snakes together.
5. **Describe the falling action:** Capture the aftermath—Rikki's victory and the family's relief.
6. **Conclude with the resolution:** Summarize how the story ends, reinforcing the moral about courage.
7. **Visualize the diagram:** Use a simple horizontal line with labeled segments or a pyramid shape, depending on your preference.

Sample Plot Diagram for

Downloaded from makingthemisco.rivoli.net by Crawford & Abbigail • Books are a uniquely portable magic.

Below is a concise example of how you might structure the plot diagram, using the classic pyramid format:

Exposition

Rikki Tikki Tavi, a stray cat, is found by a family in India. They adopt him, unaware of the danger posed by two venomous snakes, Nag and Nagaina.

Rising Action

- The house cat warns Rikki about the snakes.
- Rikki defeats Nag in a quick battle.
- Nagaina attempts to kill Rikki, but he escapes.
- Rikki confronts Nagaina again, using clever tactics.

Climax

During a fierce fight, Rikki battles both snakes simultaneously, ultimately killing them and saving the family.

Falling Action

The family expresses gratitude; Rikki is celebrated as a hero.

Resolution

Rikki's bravery is cemented, and the story ends with the moral that courage can overcome fear.

Tips for Students Using the Plot Diagram

- **Use color coding:** Assign a distinct color to each plot element to improve visual clarity.
- **Incorporate quotes:** Place short excerpts next to key events to reinforce your analysis.
- **Connect to themes:** Show how each plot point reflects themes such as loyalty, bravery, and the natural world.
- **Practice with variations:** Try both linear and pyramid diagrams to see which better suits your learning style.

Conclusion

Creating a plot diagram for Rikki Tikki Tavi not only simplifies the story's structure but also deepens your appreciation for Dahl's storytelling craft. By breaking the narrative into clear, labeled segments, you can more easily analyze character motivations, thematic elements, and narrative pacing. Whether you're preparing for an exam, writing an essay, or simply enjoying a classic tale, a well-crafted plot diagram serves as an invaluable tool for unlocking the layers of meaning in this beloved story.