PLOT OUTLINE 3 Act Structure

<u>Act 1</u> – Set-up (This can be the first 1/4 to 1/3 of the book.)

This is the act that helps us learn about the main character/protagonist.

Exposition: This is where we learn about the main character, their support system (or lack thereof), the setting, their goals/desires, and/or struggles/setbacks.

Inciting Incident: This is where you set in motion the purpose of the story, why the reader wants to continue reading the story, what sets off the character to meet their goal/desire, and/or what struggles or setbacks they are wanting to overcome.

Plot Point One: Setting the plot in a new direction. Meeting a bump in the road. FIRST PLOT TWIST!

<u>Act 2</u> – Confrontation (This can be the middle 1/3 to 1/2 of the book.)

This act is meant to show us how the protagonist is able/unable to deal with the setbacks and complications that surface. This is an emotional journey for the protagonist.

Rising Action(s): The small obstacles (and hopefully their resolutions) and a complication (or two) that could be serious/dangerous is introduced.

Midpoint: This is where the protagonist's world crashes down and makes them feel as if they have hit rock bottom (emotionally, physically, financially, morally, etc.). The DARK MOMENT!

Plot Point Two: Another new direction. Another bump in the road. SECOND PLOT TWIST!

Act 3 – Resolution (This can be the last 1/4 to 1/3 of the book.)

This act is meant to show the resolution between the protagonist and the antagonist. This act is also meant to answer unanswered questions.

Pre-Climax: This is where you will include the events that will lead up to the climax.

Climax: This is where the "face-off" or "show-down" between the protagonist and the antagonist will occur while simultaneously explaining the plot twists and tying loose ends together.

Denouement: This is the end of the story. The moment when the protagonist returns to a life of calmness. Their world/outlook/life may be different than before due to the events of the story.

Additional Concepts

Pinch Point One: This is where the antagonist will begin to present small complications and give subtle hints they are there...maybe include some foreshadowing as well. This concept may be placed at the end of Act 1 as a potential cliffhanger for Act 2.

Pinch Point Two: This is where the antagonist will present bigger complications (either known or unknown to the protagonist) and may be more severe/dangerous. Again, some foreshadowing may be included. This concept may be placed at the end of Act 2 as a cliffhanger for Act 3.

Character Arcs: These are small changes throughout the story that shows how the character may be changing/growing into what they desire. This may apply to more than one character.

Extra Ideas