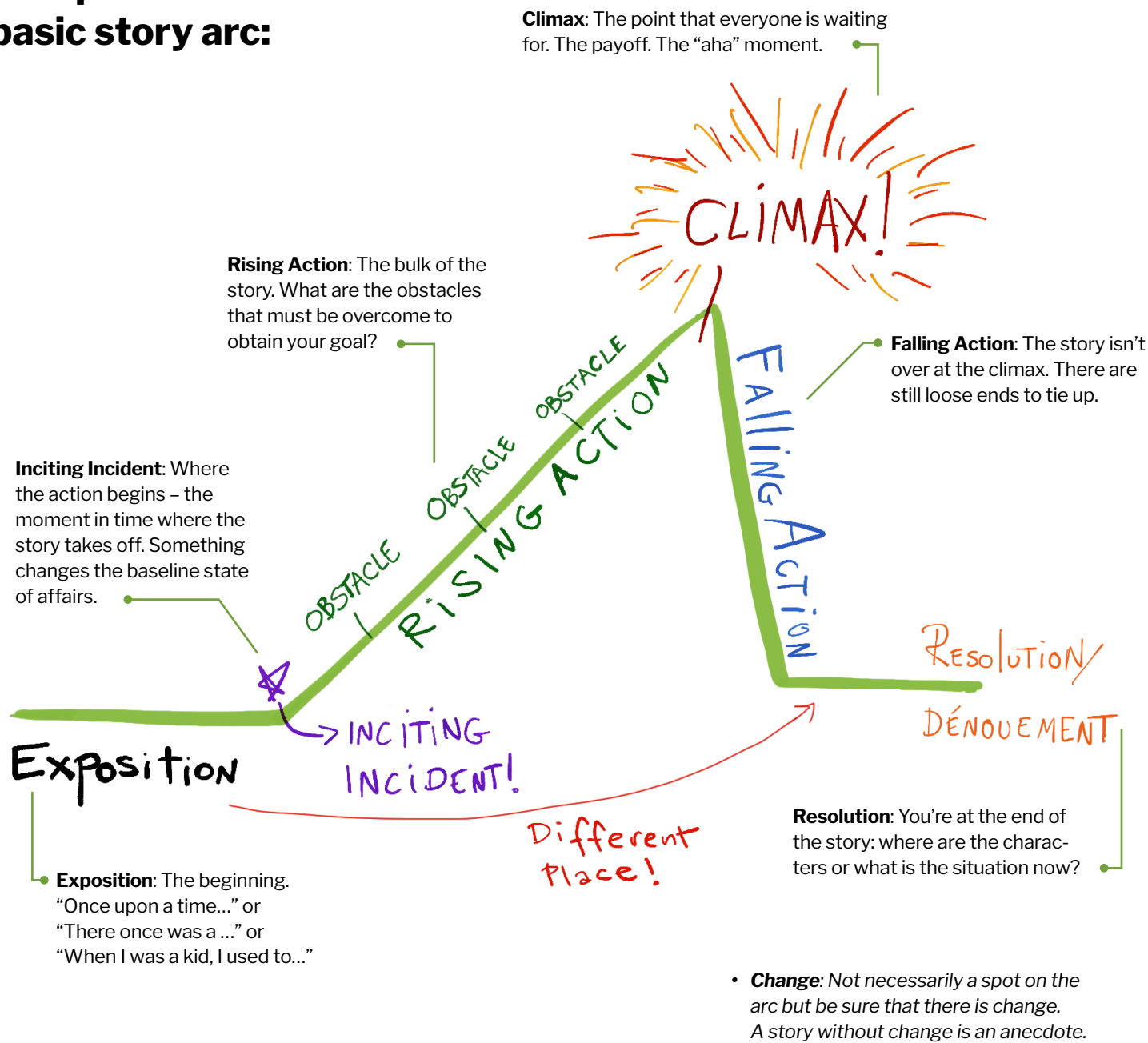


STORYTELLING 101: The Story Arc

The key structure of any story, science-related or otherwise, is the story arc.

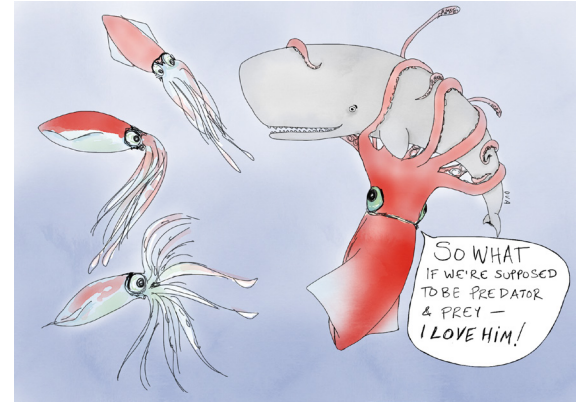
Components of the basic story arc:



Drawing by Olivia V. Ambrogio

Creating a story is like writing a manuscript – start with certain chunks and build it out from there.

Decide what's changed. Remember, it's only a story if the characters/conditions are different at the end. What change are you talking about—in you, in other people, in our understanding or actions—and how is it integral to the message you want to convey?



Set your scene (i.e., exposition). Stories are interesting because we care about the people and situations involved. It's critical to start your story by getting your listener invested in either the characters or how the science relates to them (e.g., why do wetlands/wildfire/snowpack matter to me?).

What is resolved, or what can and should be, and what will that look like?

What actions are taken, what adventures are embarked on, what discoveries are made?

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