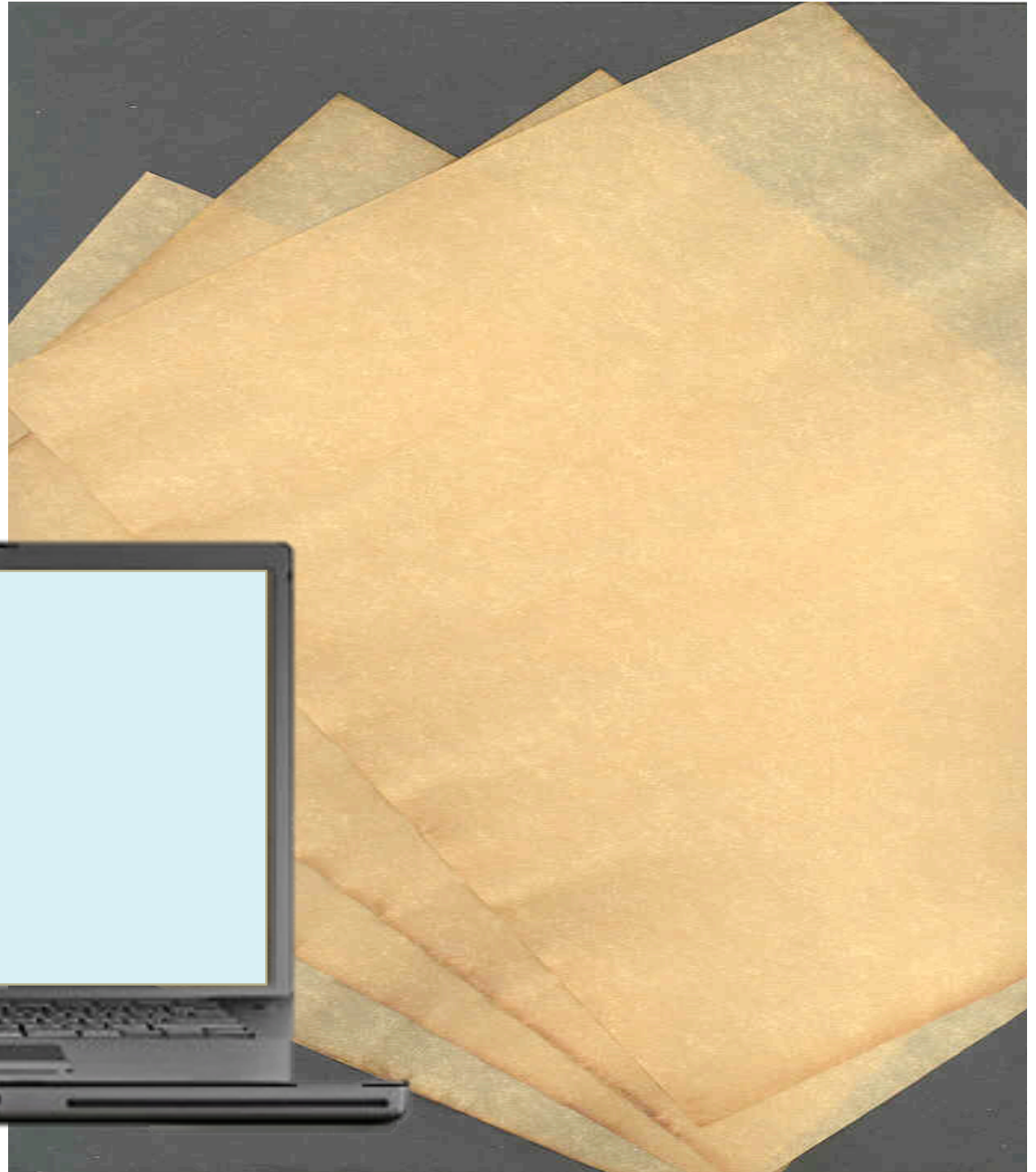




# Plotless in Seattle

with Chris Mandeville

# The Blank Page.



# What is PLOT?

*Plot is*

*“the arrangement of the incidents”*

*Aristotle’s “Poetics”*

335 BCE

Plot is the sequence of events that happens in a story.

# Plotters vs. Pantsers

Plotters vs. WHAT?

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Whether Plotter or Pantser--

Keep a destination in mind,  
whether your idea is character-based or plot-based.



A plot is like a house – it holds the story



Every house holds a story, no matter how many room are inside, no matter if you call the main communal space the “great room” or the living room, and regardless of the colors you use to paint it or how you choose to furnish it. Each ROOM in the house is a different component of the structure.

Here are 5 houses that are identical in size, but each has a different structure or way of dividing up the whole.

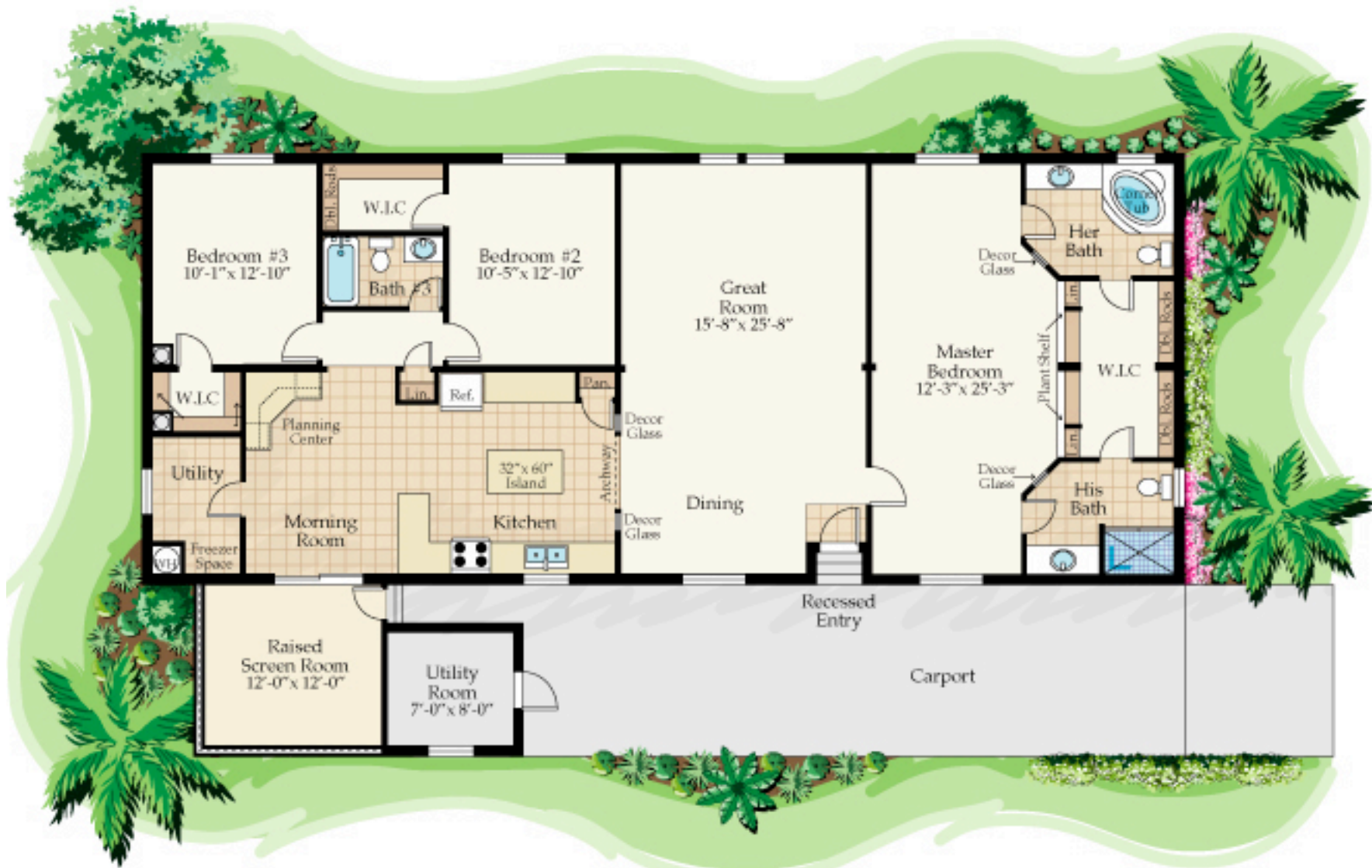


# Aristotle's Beginning-Middle-End



The most basic of plot structures: beginning, middle, end.  
Simple, but without a beginning, middle and end, a story is not a story.



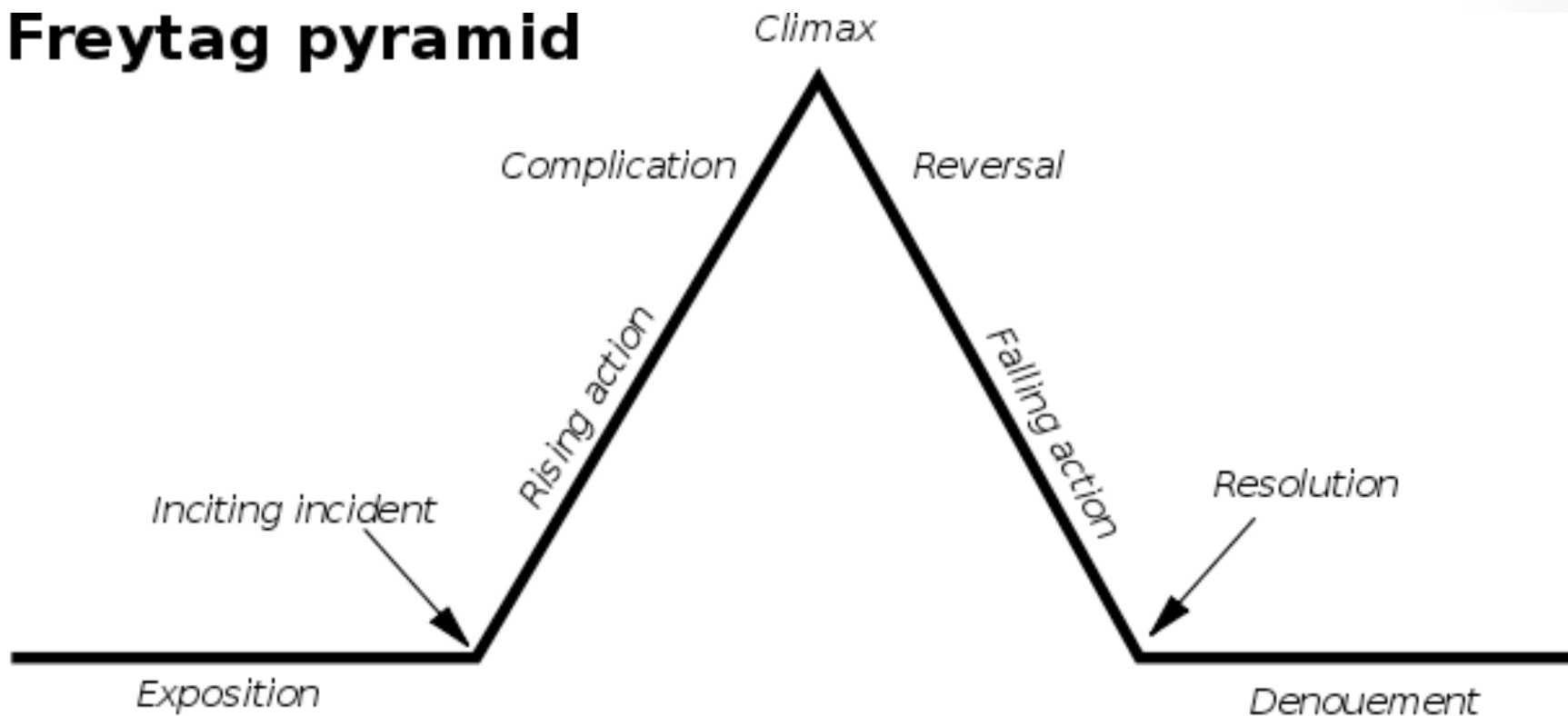


This structure has more components than the basic 3-room house (plot) , but overall the same functions are accomplished.

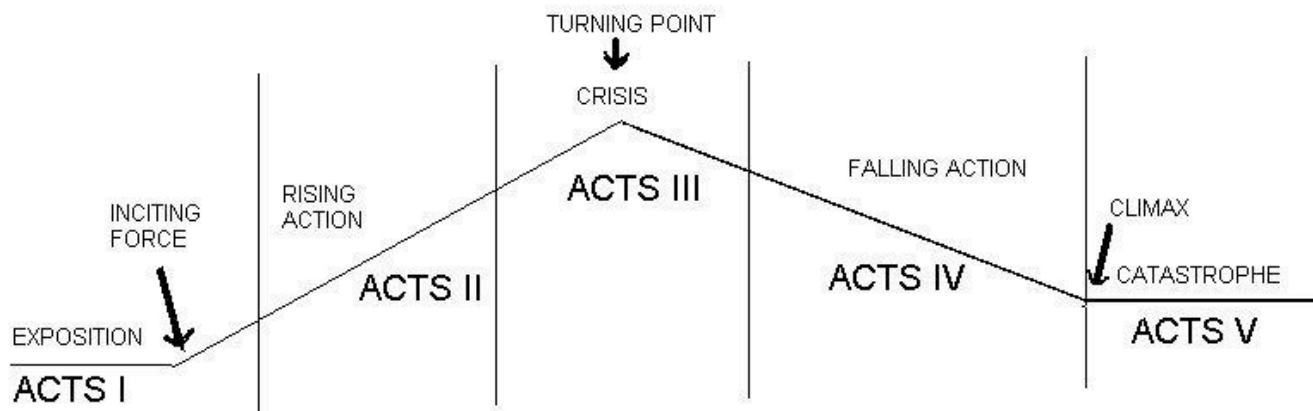
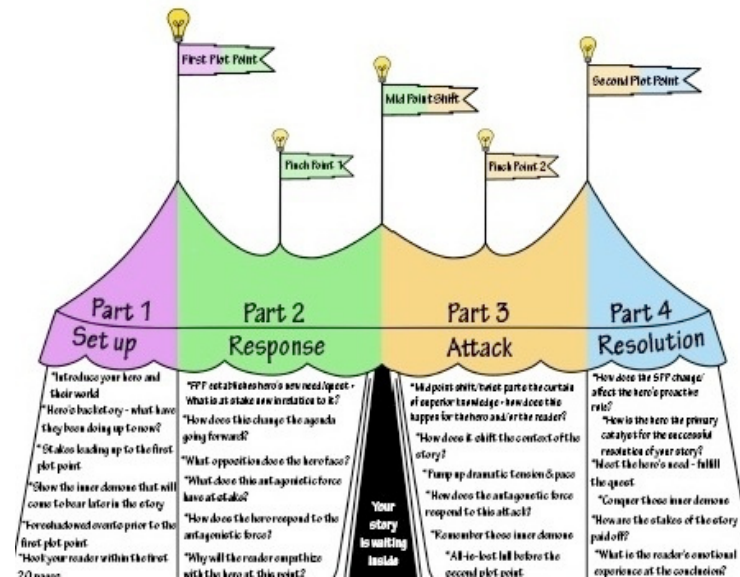
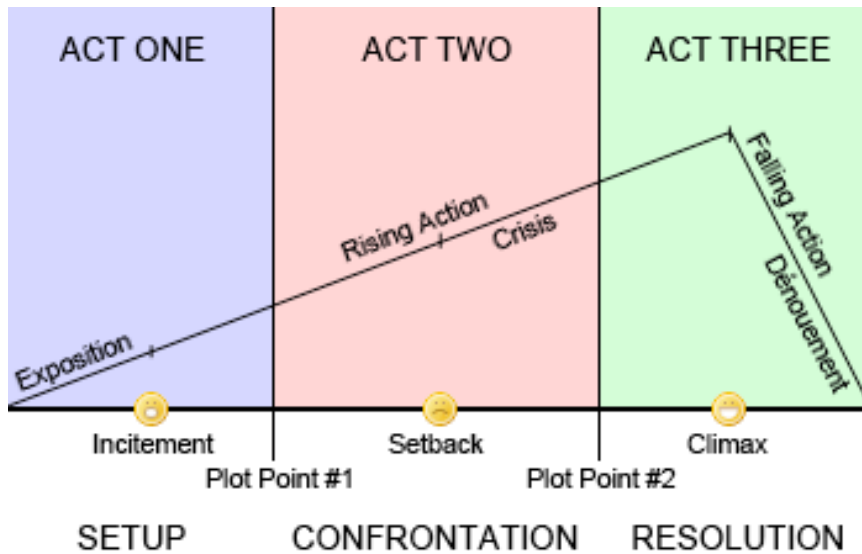
You can divide up the whole into as many or as few components as you like.

# Plot Structure

## Freytag pyramid

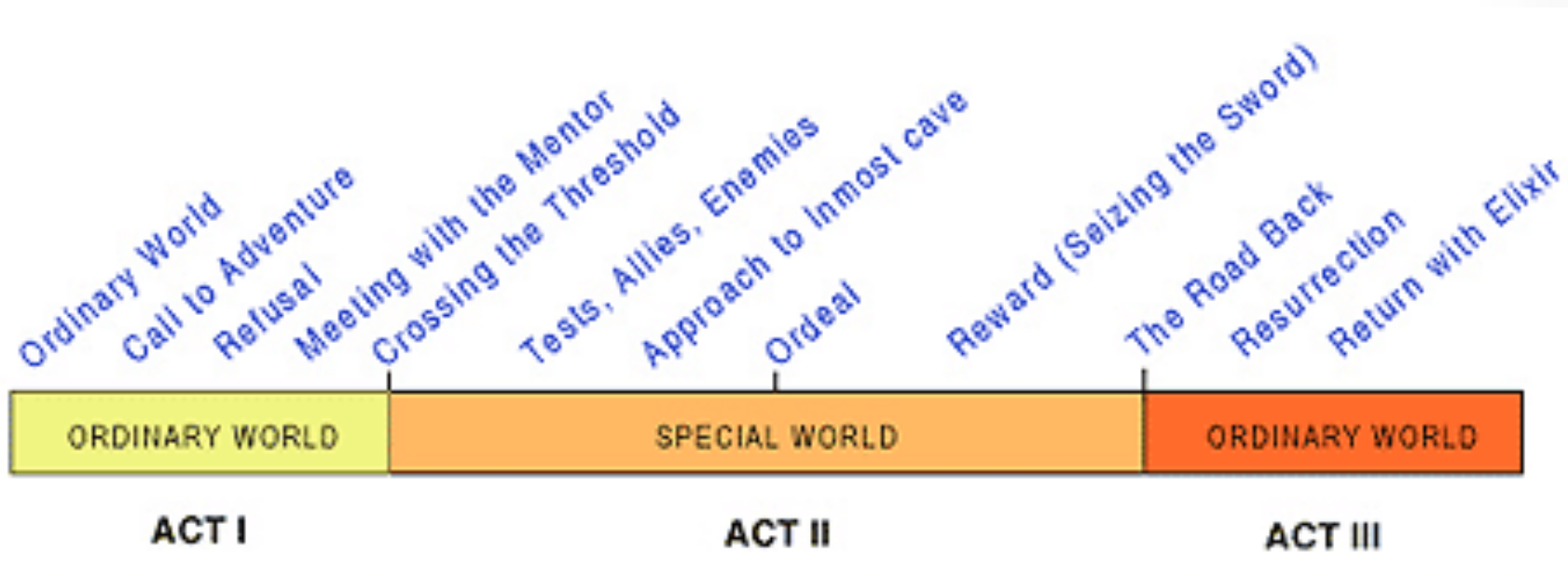


# 3, 4, and 5 Act Structure



Elizabethan Five-act Play

# The Hero's Journey



Another example of a 3-act structure, this time broken down in more detail – 12 phases

# The Hero's Inner Journey



# The Plotting Grid



# GMC: Goal, Motivation & Conflict

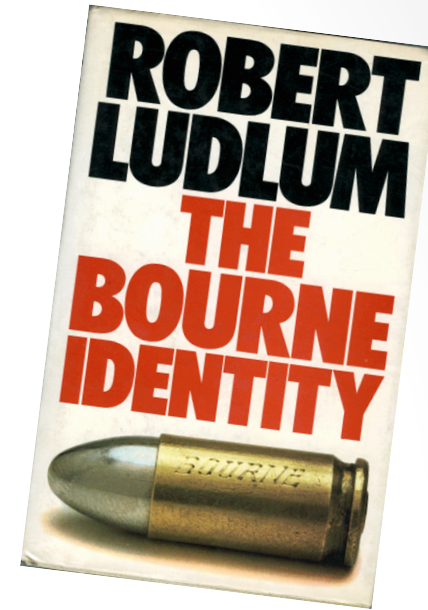
HERO	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL
GOAL		
MOTIVATION		
CONFLICT		

# OTHER PLOTTING METHODS

- Outline
- Spreadsheet
- Index Cards
- Beat Sheet
- Character Arcs
- Collage
- Visual Storyboards
- The “Triple O Method”
- Scripting
- The “W” Plot



# Let's Try It



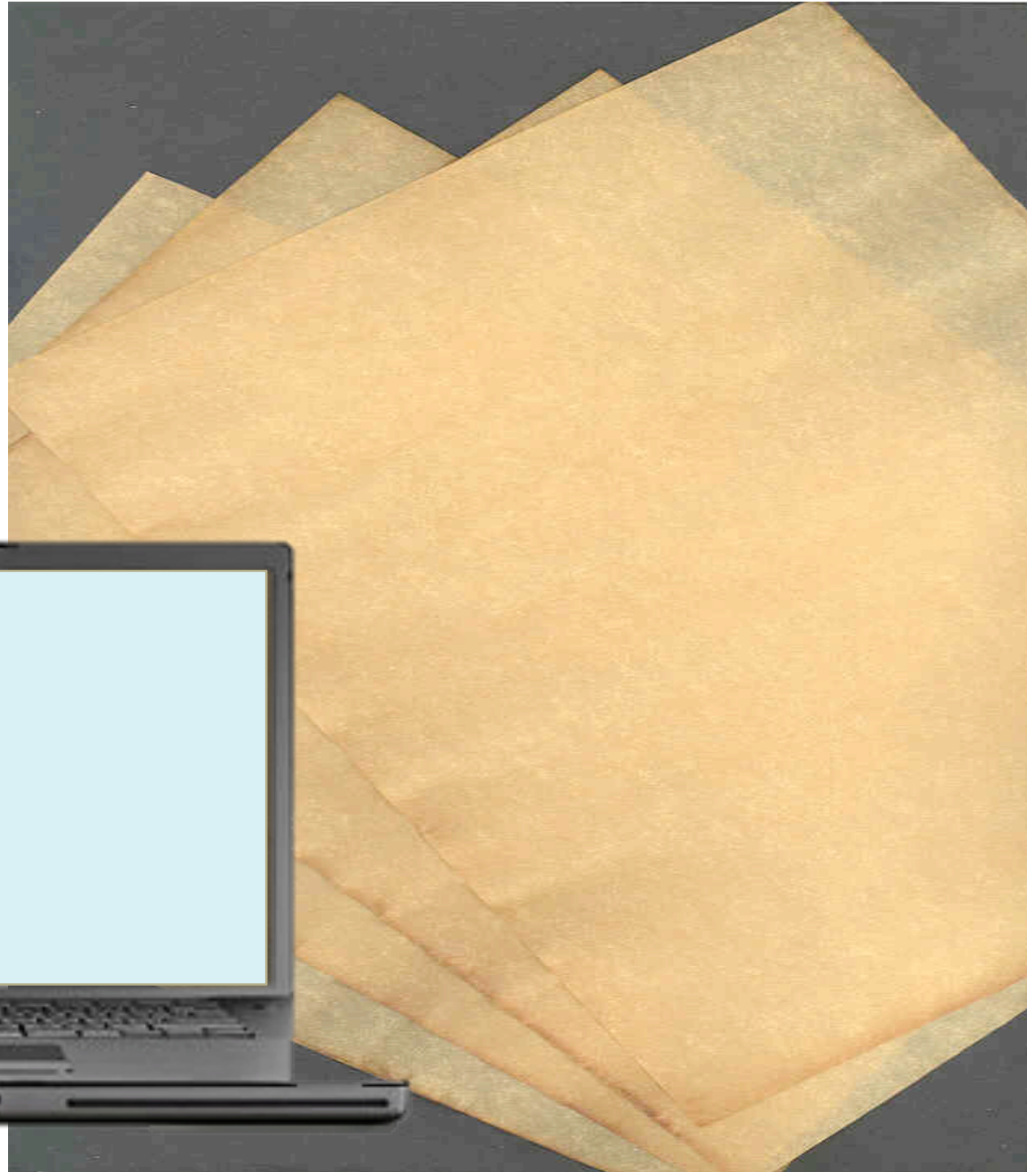
- The Hunger Games
- The Bourne Identity
- Sleepless in Seattle
- Star Wars



# Stuck?

- Ask your character what s/he wants
- Go backwards
- Play “what if”
- Job description for what you need
- Famous historical event
- Web chart, starburst, sun chart, fishbone, snowflake
- Go 3 whys deep
- Ask an expert
- Go back to GMC and make sure you have it right
- Do something totally unrelated to plot

What will  
you do  
with your  
Blank Page?





*The End*