

# MIX UP YOUR OWN OPERA WITH OUR DO IT YOURSELF OPERA MIX

## HOW TO MAKE A GREAT STORY THE BASIC ELEMENTS

### 1. THE CHARACTERS

The **protagonist** is the hero of the story. The protagonist can be male, female, animal, creature or plant.

The **antagonist** is the person, thing or force that hinders the protagonist from getting something.

### 2. CONFLICT

The conflict is a collision. In stories, the conflict is between the protagonist and the antagonist.

### 3. SETTING

The setting is where the story happens.

### 4. RESOLUTION

How the conflict gets resolved to give a satisfactory ending to the story.

These are the four basic elements from which all exciting stories are made. Each element has nearly limitless variations, but all four are present in stories that hold our attention.

## WRITING A STORY PLOT-LINE

Before constructing your own story, spend some time thinking about a well-known story like Cinderella. Who is the protagonist? Who is the antagonist? What is the conflict? Where does it all happen? In some stories these elements might not be obvious, like in Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Now, create a protagonist of your own. It might be you or your best friend, or someone or something entirely made-up. Then decide where this character lives: What town, country or planet? Maybe Mars? Imagine what this character might need or want. Next, create an antagonist. It could be an enemy. It could be a false friend. Decide why this character (the antagonist) does not intend to allow the protagonist to achieve his/her goal.

The story is simply letting these two people or forces fight it out. The exciting part of the story is in the conflict or collision of wishes.

The more intense the conflict, the more exciting the story. To make your story even more exciting, up the stakes. This means figure out reasons for the opposing characters to want the same thing, like the Stepsisters and Cinderella both wanting to marry the Prince.

Now, let the characters fight it out. Don't take sides! See what happens to resolve the conflict...