WHAT IS A PLOT?

☐	Also known as the Story Structure the Plot appears in many versions. We will only be considering one version of a Plot and it is basic to all writing. **It is The 3-Act Structure**	☐	**The 3-Act Structure** The history of this version of plotting goes all the way back to Aristotle. I won't go into that aspect now, but you might find it interesting to look up.
☐	Plotting is important for you to understand even if you don't use it. In complete transparency I am what is called a 'pantser' which means I write 'by the seat of my pants'. While that is a true description of my writing, I still have a plot in the back of my mind. I have also written my plot out at times. But the important thing here is to understand what the plot or story structure is.	☐	**The Essentials** All stories include the 3 basic essentials of a good plot: • **Beginning** • **Middle** • **Conclusion**
☐	So, the plot is the structure of your story. Whether you are a plotter or pantser I encourage you to study the tool 'The 3-Act Structure'. Learn how it works and apply those truths to your story.	☐	"Wait! I've already started my story!" you exclaim. My response: "Good." Though you may have already written pages or chapters, you can still create your plot. Because the truth is that you had a basic idea of the plot before you started. That's where you begin developing your plot.
☐	I have provided you 'The 3-Act Structure' tool so that you can begin plotting before writing or after you already started writing. Plus, you will learn about 'inciting'.	☐	Think of the 3 acts as being 3 floors in a 3-story building. Each act is then one floor in your building. Each floor is very similar in some ways, but has different characteristics or, in the case of writing, scenes.
	Another way to view this is as the human body. There is a skeleton, organs, and the flesh. Each is different but a part of the whole.		The plot serves as a guide to keep you on track. For instance, if your story is a murder story, you need to keep the chief moments of the story related to that fact.

☐	**Chief Moments** I get into this more in The 3-Act Structure, but for now these are also called Plot Points and are an important part of plotting.	☐

	Review
	   • ***The 3-Act Structure***
	   • ***What is Inciting?***
		Our next lesson will be on Editing.