

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick

Agenda and Directions:

#1 Watch a video clip about the mystery of Harris Burdick to gather background information.

#2 Choose 1 picture that you would like to write a story about.

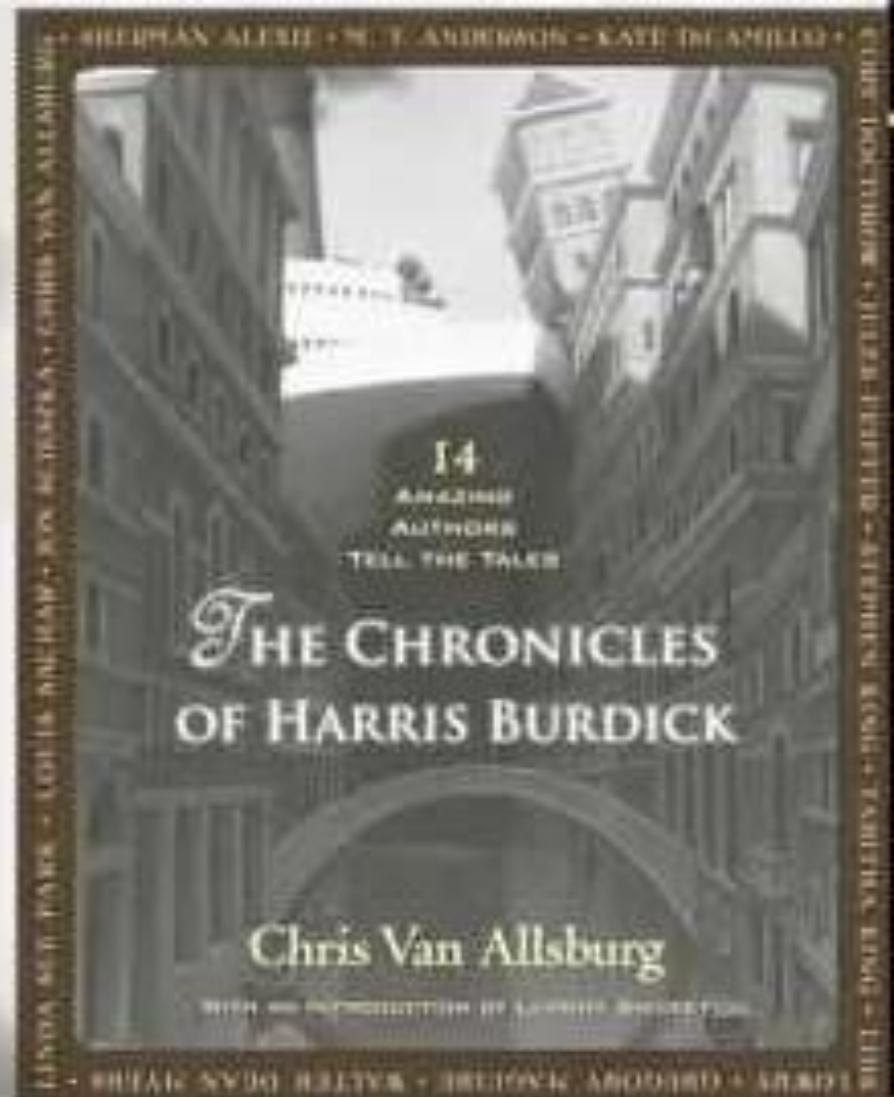
#3 Begin the pre-writing process.



HARRIS BURDICK INTRODUCTION

- First, watch the video to learn a little bit about this mystery.

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 25, 2011
WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD



Introduction

I first saw the drawings in this book a year ago, in the house of a man named Peter Wenders. Though Mr. Wenders is retired now, he once worked for a children's book publisher, choosing the stories and pictures that would be turned into books.

Thirty years ago a man called at Peter Wenders' office, introducing himself as Harris Burdick. Mr. Burdick explained that he had written fourteen stories and had drawn many pictures for each one. He'd brought with him just one drawing from each story, to see if Wenders liked his work.

Peter Wenders was fascinated by the drawings. He told Burdick he would like to read the stories that went with them as soon as possible. The artist agreed to bring the stories the next morning. He left the fourteen drawings with Wenders. But he did not return the next day. Or the day after that. Harris Burdick was never heard from again. Over the years, Wenders tried to find out who Burdick was and what had happened to him, but he discovered nothing. To this day, Harris Burdick remains a complete mystery.

Introduction Continued

His disappearance is not the only mystery left behind. What were the stories that went with these drawings? There are some clues. Burdick had written a title and caption for each picture. When I told Peter Wenders how difficult it was to look at the drawings and their captions without imagining a story, he smiled and left the room. He returned with a dust-covered cardboard box. Inside were dozens of stories, all inspired by the Burdick drawings. They'd been written years ago by Wenders' children and their friends.

I spent the rest of my visit reading these stories. They were remarkable, some bizarre, some funny, some downright scary. In the hope that other children will be inspired by them, the Burdick drawings have been reproduced here for the first time.

Chris Van Allsburg

Archie Smith, Boy Wonder (Burdick's Story Title) A tiny voice asked, "Is he the one?"

**(The picture caption that
Harris Burdick gave the image)**

**- IF you chose this picture,
then that caption would have
to be the first line in your story.**



FIRST, CHOOSE A PICTURE FROM MY WEBSITE BY
CLICKING THIS [LINK](#).

PREWRITING/PLANNING:

FILL IN EACH BOX BASED ON YOUR STORY.

Characters

You must include at least 2 characters. Include names, physical descriptions, and give them personality traits.

Character #1

- Name:
- Physical Description:
- Character Traits/Personality:

Character #2

- Name:
- Physical Description:
- Character Traits/Personality:

Setting

Describe *when* your story takes place and *where*. Include plenty of adjectives and be specific.

Time Period:

Location:

Conflict

What is the main conflict or problem in your story? What are the characters trying to overcome?

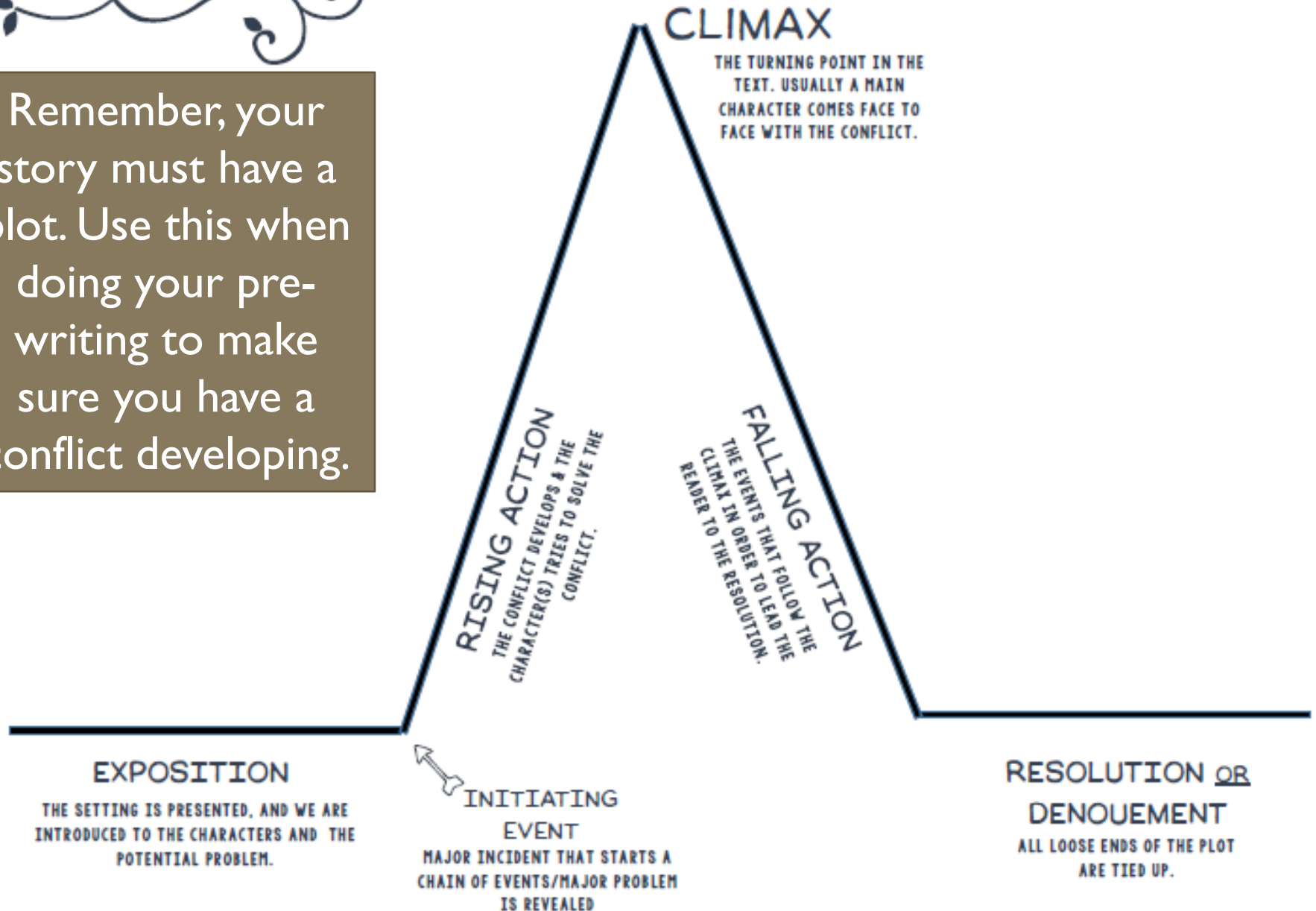
Conflict or Problem:

Plot Diagram



WRITING PIECE: _____

Remember, your story must have a plot. Use this when doing your pre-writing to make sure you have a conflict developing.



PLOT: FILL IN THE EVENTS BASED ON YOUR STORY.

- Exposition (Characters, background information, and setting)
- Initiating Event (Event that really kicks off or begins the story)
- Rising Action (At least 3 events where the conflict is developing)
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- Climax (When the protagonist comes face to face with the conflict/problem)
- Falling Action (Events that lead the reader to the resolution of the conflict)
- Resolution: