

Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

*“Indeed, the word of God is living and active”*

- Hebrews 4.12

**Week 4**

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# Understanding the Bible

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# Class Objective

To Understand the Bible's:

- History
- Structure
- Reliability
- Purpose
- Meaning

In order that we might more fully engage with the Bible's  
**Message and Importance** for our lives.

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# More Good News!

*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.*

- Paul, 1Timothy 1.15

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## More Good News!

As Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”<sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ *For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.*”

- Jesus, Matthew 9:10-13

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# Review: *What is the Bible?*

- A Library, not a Book
- The story of a God who loves us enough to create us, walk with us, rescue us, sustain us and give us eternal life.
- 2 Main Sections: Old Testament (pre-Jesus) and New Testament (Jesus & Early Church)

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# Old Testament

- 39 Books, written between 1200-300BC
- 5 Sections:
  - Pentateuch (Books of Moses) - 5 books
  - History - 12 books
  - Poetry & Wisdom Literature - 5 books
  - Major Prophets - 5 books
  - Minor Prophets - 12 books

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# New Testament

- Jesus and after
- 27 Books, written between 50-100AD
  - 3 Sections:
    - Gospels & Acts (5 books)
    - Letters(Epistles) (21)
    - Revelation (1)

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# New Testament

- Other Letters
  - Hebrews (author unknown - Priscilla?)
  - James (brother of Jesus)
  - 1&2 Peter (Apostle)
  - 1, 2 & 3 John (Apostle)
  - Jude (also brother of Jesus)

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# New Testament

- James & Peter have different flavor than Paul
  - Jerusalem/Jewish vs. Roman Empire/Gentile
  - Acts 15, Galatians 2

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## New Testament

*When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us warmly. The next day Paul went with us to visit James; and all the elders were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard it, they praised God. Then they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been told about you that you teach all the Jews living among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs. What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. So do what we tell you."*

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## New Testament

*We have four men who are under a vow. Join these men, go through the rite of purification with them, and pay for the shaving of their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself observe and guard the law. But as for the Gentiles who have become believers, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.” Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having purified himself, he entered the temple with them, making public the completion of the days of purification when the sacrifice would be made for each of them.*

- Acts 21:17-26

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# New Testament

- Revelation
  - Apocalyptic Literature
  - Similar to Prophet Daniel
  - Past, Present and Future
  - 666: Nero, NRON QSRN

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# Biblical Sweep

- Creation to New Creation
- Eden to New Jerusalem
- Garden to City
- Tree of Life to River of Life

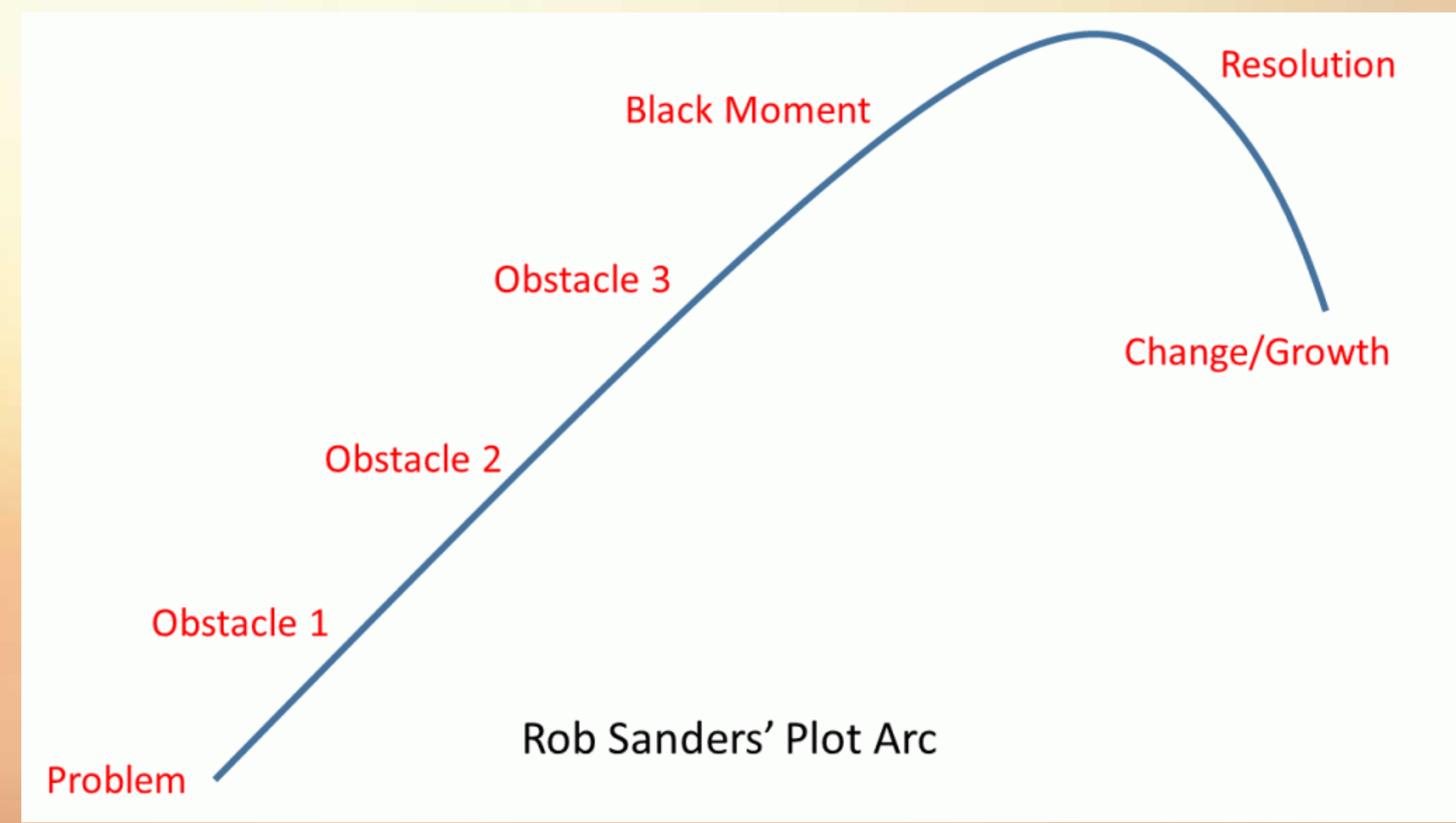
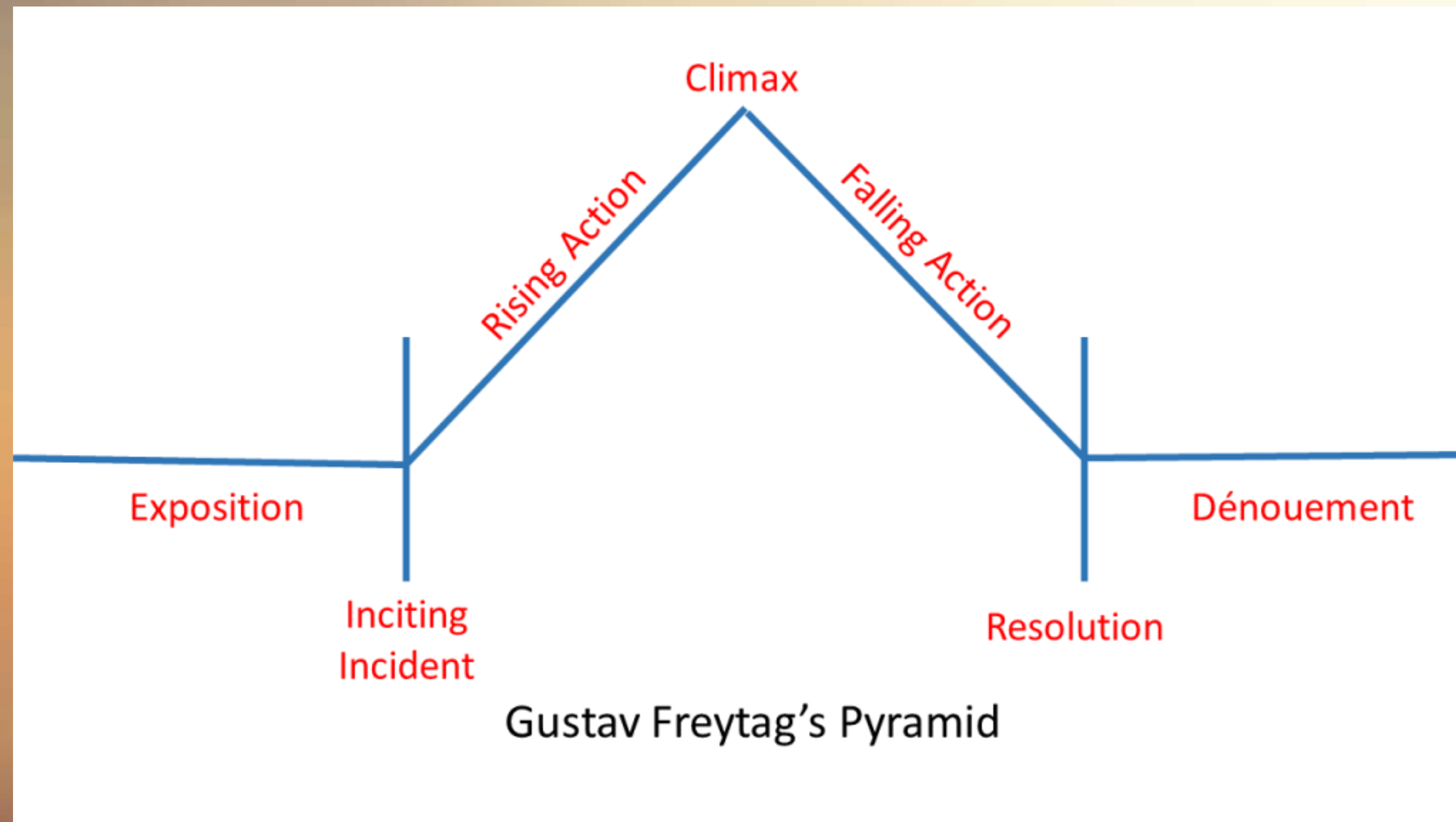
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