

**ANNOTATING HIGH-LEVEL STRUCTURES OF  
SHORT STORIES AND PERSONAL ANECDOTES:  
GUIDELINES FOR ANNOTATION (VERSION 1.0)**

Beth Cardier and Boyang “Albert” Li

June 8, 2018

## CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ANNOTATION LABELS FOR NARRATIVE STRUCTURE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A TYPICAL ANNOTATION SEQUENCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>THE PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING AND ANNOTATING TEXTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CRITERIA FOR REJECTING TEXTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Abstract .....	15
Orientation.....	17
Complicating Action .....	19
Multiple Complicating Actions .....	23
Minor Resolution.....	26
Most Reportable Event (MRE).....	28
Return of MRE .....	31
Resolution.....	35
Aftermath.....	38
Evaluation.....	41
Direct Comment .....	43
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>46</b>

## OVERVIEW

This project aims to annotate the high-level structures of narratives. Sometimes the structure is referred to as the dramatic curve or the dramatic arc. One typical example is Freytag’s pyramid shown below, where the story starts at a low-tension point, the Exposition. The rising actions increase tension, which reaches its peak at the Climax. After that, the tension starts to resolve in the Falling Action, eventually reach the Dénouement, another low point in tension.

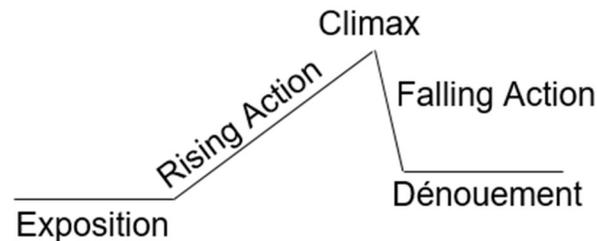


Figure 1. The structure of stories as depicted by Freytag’s Pyramid

We capture an aspect of this rise and resolution of tension by annotating the fundamental stages of story observed by Labov: the orientation, a complicating action, a key event and then a resolution. We informally refer to this progression as the story ‘curve’.

These are not our only categories. We have also developed labels to reflect more nuanced aspects of these stories concerning tension.

As well, narratives told in a social context shift between states of recounting and engagement with the audience, in a manner we refer to as the “story frame”.

Eleven category labels have been devised to the stages of this structure. These can be seen on the following page. Examples that don’t demonstrate our ‘curve’ are to be rejected – more details on rejection criteria below. In this document, we specify a new set of annotation labels for narrative structure and introduce guidelines for using these labels to annotate stories. A typical story would contain: the set-up (the backdrop against which the story happens), the complicating action (that increases tension and leads to the MRE), The most reportable event (MRE), and the resolution.

For more theoretical considerations and analysis of the annotated corpus, please refer to the following paper (and also consider citing it):

Boyang Li, Beth Cardier, Tong Wang and Florian Metzger. Annotating High-Level Structures of Short Stories and Personal Anecdotes. *In the Proceedings of the 11th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*. 2018.

## ANNOTATION LABELS FOR NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

Here we provide an overview of the annotation labels. Detailed discussions and examples are provided in later parts of the document.

We introduce the notion of the story frame. The core sequence of narrated events is within the frame. Outside the frame, the narrator can reflect on the tale’s meaning or connect with the audience, such as the narrator summarizing and foreshadowing what is coming (“let me tell you the story of an embarrassing moment.”), looking back and evaluating what was told (“this event taught me to be brave.”), or just giving out a random comment (“you saw Alice with that hat, remember?”). Labov (1972, p. 354) also observed these two modes. A few of our categories reflect aspects outside the story frame, as reflections for or communications with the online audience.

<b>Discourse Categories</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Story Frame</b>
Abstract	A summary of the story found at the beginning of the text. It contains information about the story topic. This label can also apply to a story title.	Out
Set-up	The starting state of the story; a survey of the environment and historical context that set up the central actions of the story. This may include time, place, persons and their tendencies, activities or situation.	In
Complicating Action	This single event increases the tension of the story. It does this by causing a situation to turn away from normal and become worth telling. It also has a causal component, propeling the critical action towards the MRE and requiring resolution. This label can be used for subsequent complicating actions, which build tension incrementally.	In
New Complicating Action	A new, separate complicating action starts immediately after the previous complicating action	In
Minor Resolution	An explicit, partial reduction of tension. It can occur in two ways: (1) by resolving a lesser mystery in a story, or part of it; (2) by resolving the tension of part of a problem in the story, without resolving the issues of the entire narrative. This is a rare category.	In
MRE	A sentence or sentences qualify as an MRE if two criteria are fulfilled: (1) it is an explicit event at the highest tension point of the story. (2) If you only report one event as the summary of the story, it is this one. This event introduces tension, in the same manner as a complicating action, but it central nature means there can only be one in a tale.	In

Resolution	A finishing that occurs within the frame of the story. This is the final resolution of the situation created by the most reportable event.	In
Return of MRE	This category is used if multiple events separated by time jointly contribute to the impact of the MRE, with the first event labeled as MRE and the second as its 'Return'.  This event represents a new twist on the main theme. It must be at similar level of tension and importance as the MRE; it allows the tension to rise again after a resolution.	In
Evaluation	This is a comment from the narrator about the significance or meaning of the story and is focused on a moral, message, value or lesson. It usually occurs after the resolution or aftermath and outside the story frame.	Out
Aftermath	This event occurs when a significant temporal gap has elapsed after the main event sequence has concluded. It indicates the long-term effect or broader implications of the recounted events – for example, how the story characters went on with their lives after the main events are over.	Out
Direct comment	Direct comment to audience outside the story frame. It may include the reason for telling the story, an apology for the way the story is presented, or concern that telling the story will get the writer into trouble.	Out

## A TYPICAL ANNOTATION SEQUENCE

The below example of an anecdote annotation shows a typical ordering for the annotation categories: set up, complication actions, MRE, and resolution.

Categories are characteristically found at particular stages of the story (the beginning, middle or end), but sometimes their order within those stages can change. For example, the categories of ‘resolution’, ‘evaluation’ and ‘aftermath’ can appear in any order near the end of the story, but they are unlikely to be found at the beginning of a tale.

4118_Experiences in Life_7	Annotation
Yes ... I don't know how I was saved.	abstract
I was in Delhi , and people in India clear know how it's traffic is. Now one day I was traveling though DTC(Delhi transport Corp.) Bus , a green Lane one .	orientation
So the bus stop was a little away from were I wanted to get down. I did it many times so I was at door step and my good luck bus was slowing down due a small jam which was clearing up .	orientation
Looking at that opportunity I got down and at the same time bus got its speed , and I started to run backwards . which was impossible to match with that bus speed and I fell down in between road where lost of vehicals were on the move .	complicating action
I just got lucky that a motorcycle missed to crush me, but bigger problem was just behind me. Another bus was near to me , and I don't know why that driver didn't see me lying down.	complicating action
I thought I was dead, I was clearly under its left side tyres . Even the bus was so close that it can't move . It was certain that it'd left tyres would crush my body . I was just lying and looking towards it. I wanted to move but I was like paralysed. I saw it coming ....	MRE
Suddenly at single strike I just rolled to other side, and the bus just crossed touching my shirt. I can feel the bus tyres crossing near me and leaving dust on my face.	MRE
After this happened my friends dragged me , and for 5 mins I was out of world . ....	resolution

Things to notice:

- **Labels:** If a category is spread over two sections (e.g., orientation), the label can be applied consecutively and count as one label.
- **Maintaining formatting:** Paragraph breaks come from the original writer of the anecdote. You are allowed to break up paragraphs to apply labels more precisely, but you cannot break up sentences. We try to maintain the original paragraphs where possible to increase annotator agreement.
- **MRE-centric:** The only category we expect to see in every story is the MRE. If a story does not contain an MRE, it is not considered to be a story. Other categories are optional.

- **Annotate the explicit statement, not hints at it:** It is often the case that an important event will be hinted at or foregrounded. Do not annotate this hint as though it was directly stated. Only annotate explicitly stated events or ideas.

## THE PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING AND ANNOTATING TEXTS

- 1) Read the entire text, from the beginning to the end.
- 2) **Preprocessing 1:** Determine if the text should be rejected using the criteria on page 9. If so, don't annotate it.
- 3) **Preprocessing 2:** Delete any superfluous lines or meta information that have not been properly removed by our program (which makes mistakes from time to time). These may include image captions and errors in pasting text. More details are discussed below.
- 4) **Annotation Step 1:** Identify the MRE (see the definition on page). It is the most important section of the story. Other categories will be arranged in relation to the MRE.
- 5) **Annotation Step 2:** Based on the MRE, identify the main categories, including the Abstract, Complicating Actions, Resolution, and Aftermath.
- 6) **Annotation Step 3:** For the remaining text that have not been labeled, try to fit them into the remaining categories, including Evaluation, Minor Resolution, Return of the MRE, etc.
- 7) **Review Step:** For every annotation label, ask yourself: does the tension here go up or down? Is the text segment in or out the story frame? Is there any alternative label you can apply? Can you justify your choice?
- 8) Break up text differently if needed. In the Excel sheet supplied to you, every line contains one paragraph of sentences as provided by the original text. You can only apply one label to every line of text. If necessary, you can break up a paragraph into two or more lines, so that you can apply two or more labels to the text. However, the smallest unit for annotation is a sentence. You cannot break one sentence into two lines and apply two different labels to them.

### Notes on (7) A single sentence is the smallest unit of text possible

Sometimes a sentence seems to shift categories mid-sentence. When this happens, consider which category is more salient / important.

Consider the first sentence in the story below. The part “One of my teachers when I was about six years old” is an orientation. However, the part that he/she “told us that if an object's atoms are split, the object simply disappears” is a complicating action. If we compress the sentence to the bare bones, we can see the subject is “One of my teachers” and the main verb is “told”. Thus, we consider the action of telling to be more important and label it as a complicating action rather than an orientation.

Another consideration is to determine which category is more important to the story structure – does the MRE depend on information from this category or not? For example, an orientation gives information about the story, whereas a direct comment might not.

19190_Life Lessons_0	
One of my teachers when I was about six years old told us that if an object's atoms are split, the object simply disappears.	complicating
She didn't mention the massive explosion that would occur if all of an object's atoms could somehow be split.	complicating
I piped up that I'd seen this film where someone was struck with a sword made of light and he disappeared. She said yes, this was an example of someone's atoms being split.	MRE
I don't know why she was talking about the subject at all, really.	Evaluation
This was the same teacher who discouraged me from attempting mental arithmetic and once blew her top because I copied down "seven" instead of "several".	Return of MRE

### Notes on 3) Preprocessing 2

Some stories have meta-information attached to them, such as hashtags and image captions. Since we only care about the text, any images and videos are not provided to you. Delete these superfluous sentences – for example:

32851_Life and Living_27	
2 Monkeys Were Paid Unequally	abstract
See What Happens Next	abstract
Even monkeys think unequal pay is the pits.	abstract
A fascinating experiment has revealed that primates go berserk when they don't get the same reward as their pals when they do the same job.	orientation
The hilarious 'Fairness Study' was uploaded to YouTube in May and has since gone viral, garnering more than 1.3 million views.	orientation
SCROLL DOWN FOR VIDEO	Delete
	4 Delete
Angry: The monkey on the left goes berserk after noticing his pal is given grapes	Delete
Frans de Waal, a primatologist and Emory University professor, first conducted the experiment with Capuchin monkeys close to a decade ago but performed it again recently and taped the results.	orientation
Â	Delete
More...Man 'murders monkey that bit him while he was trying to steal it from the zoo'It's a tough life! Amazing picture shows baby yawning in the womb - and could reveal clues to how we developIn the study, two monkeys are asked to do a job - handing a lab	Delete

worker a small rock - for which one was given a piece of cucumber and the other was given a grape.	
The first time a monkey completes the required task he is recompensed with a small chunk of cucumber and eats it without a kerfuffle.	orientation
Happy: The first monkey eats the cucumber happily before seeing what the other monkey gets	Delete
Not happy: But when he sees his pal get grapes he starts banging the table angrily	Delete
But when he notices his pal getting a grape - obviously valuable currency among primates - for doing exactly the same task he goes mad.	complicating action
He ditches his second chunk of cucumber at the scientist then pounds the table and rattles the walls of his cage in protest of the pay disparity.	
Mr de Waal said if both monkeys get cucumber as a reward they are happy to repeat the task up to 25 times.	
Frenzy: The monkey chucks the cucumber back at the scientist in protest	Delete
But if you give one grapes, which is a far better food, then you create inequity between them,' Mr de Waal said.	MRE
So, this is basically the Wall Street protest that you see here,' he added, referring to the Occupy Wall Street movement.	
Mr de Waal and his colleague, Sarah Brosnan, published their findings in the journal Nature in 2003.	resolution
He said the study has now been repeated with dogs, birds and chimpanzees.	aftermath

## CRITERIA FOR REJECTING TEXTS

Reject the anecdote if it is:

- 1) Longer than 700 words or less than 90 words. (In the batch you receive for annotation, these have been automatically eliminated).
- 2) Mostly commentary or discussion regarding any person, movie character, organization, country, object, etc. Here “mostly” is defined as more than 50% of the text.
- 3) Lacking a main event or action. Sometimes this includes an amateur attempt at short fiction that is poorly written.
- 4) So poorly written or unstructured to the point that the text is difficult to understand and you have to guess its meaning. Sometimes this is resulted from poor translation or a story being written in a foreign language.
- 5) Contains more than 6 lines of dialogue in the form of a script structure (a small amount of script structure, under 6 lines, is okay). For example:

39404\_Survey Question\_40

A friend told me that he loved me and I didn't feel the same - but he just wouldn't take it!

He: I know that you love me too.

Me: I only like you as a friend, nothing more.

He: Slap me and prove it! (The strangest thing I ever heard someone say to me)

Me: What? How is that even related?

He: If you love me, you can't slap me. If you can slap me, it means that you don't love me.

Me: I wouldn't slap even a friend, so this doesn't qualify. I can't hit you. Are you mad?

He: See? I told you - you love me, that's why you can't slap me.

After a few minutes of back and forth and being provoked, I finally raised my right hand and slapped him across his face. \*Swat\* came the sound and his face was something like this and he said "Oh! So you don't like me?"

Me: Ofcourse! That's what I've been telling you all along.

His face was red out of embarrassment and since we were in his car, he couldn't excuse himself. He went on to explain how he likes me and wants me to give him a chance. Since I was going through a breakup, I wasn't ready and had to let him down. Poor guy!

- 6) A reported story – a story within a story. This is difficult to annotate because which do you annotate, the entire story or the reported story? If the reported story runs for more than one paragraph, reject the entire anecdote. If not, see next page for example.

### More on 1) a story-within-a-story

A common example of a story-within-a-story is when a character starts telling a story of their own. If this nested story is limited to a single paragraph, it can usually be annotated. To do this, notice the role this nested story plays in the larger story. For example, it could be told as a complicating action, where the information in the story prompts someone to act. See below for an example of the reported story, in which it is an MRE:

58534_Short Stories_56	
Steve Jobs : The two computers which saved Apple – Macintosh in 1984 and iMac in 1998	orientation
He was forced to leave Apple, the Company of which he was the co-founder. And that too because of the machination of the guy (John Sculley) he had brought in as CEO in the first place.	complicating action
But that gave him an opportunity to start things from scratch and led to creation of NeXT Inc.	
In his own words : "Getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life."	MRE
He also bought Graphics Group and renamed it Pixar which produced gems like Toy Story, Finding Nemo, WALL-E.	resolution
Several years later, he returned triumphantly to Apple and heralded the creation of iPod,iPhone,iPad and iMac.	aftermath

Below is another example of a story within a story that can be annotated – this time it is a complicating action.

1582_Anecdotes_8	
A lot of times, the interview is a check for culture and people skills -- the company wouldn't have given you the interview if your resume didn't tell them all they needed to know about your education and competency.	abstract
When I interviewed for my current job, I had been out of work for 1.5 months and was willing to do anything to work here. To me, this company was going to be the start of my dream-career and I went in to the interview prepared to discuss my qualifications while still showcasing my personality and desire to work there.	set-up
It should be noted in this portion of the story that I have a love for cars, and I was interviewing for a job with one of the foremost auto manufacturing companies in the world.	set-up
I, of course, had an answer prepared when asked, "Why do you want to work here?" Though after I got done, I kept talking (I have a tendency to do this). And I told my interviewing panel:	complicating action
Actually, I first started getting into cars because I had a huge crush on this cute boy in my 7th grade French class. He was always reading 'Car and Driver' magazine before class started. I decided to tell him how much I loved cars too. It was just to get his attention and I really knew nothing! But, I spent the next year memorizing every model of every car I saw on the way to	complicating action

school and checking with my dad to see if I was right. I eventually realized I did love cars, evolving even into Formula 1, and it's been an interest of mine ever since.	
Now, school crushes and manipulation stories are not things people would recommend you tell your potential employers.	Direct comment
I reeled about telling this pseudo embarrassing story for days. But when I lost out on the original job I had interviewed for, they called me the next day to offer me another one.	MRE
People interview for personality and "fit." Show them the 'real you' because a job should be more than 8-5. I'm happy to be working with people who understand me and many whom I would consider to be my friends.	Evaluation

Reject: below is an example of a story within a story (more accurately, it is a plan within a story) that should be rejected:

29671\_Life and Living\_26  
My take on the most ridiculous (and funniest) pieces of Uncle Sam's absurdity is the Operation Second Coming during the Cold War.  
"And, certainly, no such Cold War era operation got more special (and weird) than one that Lansdale pretty much single-handedly coordinated. It was one, truly, of biblical proportions. Indeed, it was designed to try and convince the leadership and the people of Cuba of two startling things: (A) that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ had arrived; and (B) that he was a big fan of the USA! Yep, I kid you not..."  
"This plan consisted of spreading the word that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent and that Christ was against Castro who was anti-Christ. And you would spread this word around Cuba, and then on whatever date it was, that there would be a manifestation of this thing. And at the time – this was absolutely true – and at the time just over the horizon there would be an American submarine that would surface off of Cuba and send up some star-shells. And this would be the manifestation of the Second Coming and Castro would be overthrown."  
Star-shells, for those who may be wondering, are, essentially, pyrotechnic flares of the military designed to fill the skies at night with bright and widespread illumination. But, the ambitious plan that Lansdale had in mind involved much more than just dazzling the Cubans with mere flares. The feasibility was also looked into of using a U.S. Navy submarine to project images of Jesus Christ onto low-lying clouds off the coast of the Cuban capital of Havana.  
The plan also involved – at the very same time – the crew of a U.S. military plane, camouflaged by the clouds and with its engine significantly muffled, using powerful loudspeakers to broadcast faked messages from an equally-faked Christ to the people of Cuba, ordering them to overthrow their government and renounce communism."  
The entire operation was scrapped days before it was supposed to begin because someone pondered (rightly) what would happen to the image of the US if Cuban militaries shot the "second Jesus" while the peasantry looked on.

Reject: another story-within-a-story that should be rejected, this time a commentary / review of a book:

52782\_Short Stories\_22

The ending to Herman Melville's Moby Dick was considered a twist for its time.

When narrator/protagonist Ishmael was saved from drowning after the whaler Pequod went down by using the coffin made recently by the ship's carpenter for Capt. Ahab as lifeboat it represented a use of irony as well as a symbolic twist by Melville, the coffin death symbol as a life saver. But that lifeboat/coffin and his survival was something of a surprise ending, while the Pequod's ramming by the enraged whale of the title was based on an actual historical incident (the whaler Essex being rammed and sunk) it also was something of a twist because it was so unusual for the whale which was almost always destroyed to itself destroying its antagonist.

Ishmael had to survive to tell the tale though so the story itself is paradoxical.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES

### Abstract

An abstract is a short summary of the ideas in the story. It can also be the title.

An abstract differs from orientation in that it is a general summary of the ideas in the story. (An orientation introduces the reader to the specific circumstances and context of the story and does not include the key idea of the story.) An abstract is also outside the story frame, in that it does not reveal the inciting action, and thus does not commence the main action of the narrative.

An abstract differs from a direct comment in that a direct comment focused on an interaction with the reader, rather than giving key information about the story.

Examples:

<b>22164_Life Lessons_18</b>	
Go after your passions 100% because the opportunities may never come again.	abstract
I was on the basketball team in high school.	orientation
And I've regretted it ever since. Not because I was on the team, but because I never gave it 100%. Instead of practicing whenever I had the chance, I'd rather hang out with friends or even lounge back at the house.	complicating action
I'll never get the chance to play competitive basketball again. That fact never dawned on me until I left for college.	MRE
I kept asking myself "what if." What if I gave it everything I got? Would I have been able to play at the college level?	MRE
Playing with the players at my college, I always felt like I could, but because I never tried, I'll never know.	resolution
Go after your passions 100%. You might not succeed, but at least you'll be satisfied you gave it everything you got.	evaluation

<b>5288_Experiences in Life_52</b>	
Gave shelter to Pigeons in my bedroom and they sheltered bedbugs all over the home	abstract
In my home in the bedroom pigeons used to come in and take shelter above the cupboard behind the stuff we had dumped- like unused mattresses, old television etc..	orientation
Slowly i did try to scare them out but they would somehow enter.	
And i started to get used to it.	complicating
They were also used to. If the bedroom window was closed they used to come to hall and knock on the glass door. Once i open the room window they would enter. And if the fan was on they took a different way to traverse. In a way they were adjusted in my home. And we were too. They laid eggs and i loved the chirping of the young ones once hatched..	

Then after few months we realized we could not sleep properly due to ants/mosquitoes. Mosquito repellents were of no help. I once got up at 3 AM to find bed bugs!	
A little more research and found out its the birds !	MRE
My younger brother had rashes on his body and we thought he was developing some allergy. Immediately called the pest controllers after shooing the pigeons out.	resolution

<b>4266_Experiences in Life_59</b>	
<b>CURSE OF THE EMPEROR</b>	abstract
In June 1941, A group of soviet archeologist led by Tash Muhammed Kary Niyazov and Mikhail Mikhaylovich Gerasimov began excavation in Gur-e-Amir - where the Tomb of one of the greatest invaders/Butchers lay- Timur	orientation
The team was warned time and again that this may well be a bad idea as people of samarkand believed it would bring bad luck to the people.	complicating action
The epitaph on the Timur's gravestone warns against disturbing the spirit of the great conqueror. It prophesies that "the greatest war will happen if the grave of Timur is open" It basically stated that an invader even more brutal than him will be unleashed.	complicating action
And guess what two days after the Tomb was opened Nazi Germany started Operation Barbarossa to invade The Soviet Union.	MRE
(40,00,000+ casualties, 21200 aircrafts and 20,500 tanks were destroyed on the Soviet side)	(details of MRE)
To add to that A turning Point in the War came after the Battle of Stalingrad- A month earlier Stalin had ordered the return of the remains of Temur with full honours.	return of MRE
Operation Uranus turned the tide of war and favored the Soviets.	resolution

## Orientation

The orientation is a description that introduces the reader to the specific circumstances or context needed to understand the central action of the story. These details include the “time, place, persons and their activity or situation” (Labov, 1972, p. 364). It can also include the general tendencies of a person or situation, such as “my brother is usually very healthy” or “my house is always cold”. These details are the start of the story frame, and do not give away any complicating actions. They are found at the start of a story.

Once the story starts to describe specific actions leading to the MRE, it stops being an orientation and it is time to consider whether it has become a complicating action. If the orientation has finished (it is no longer simply time/place/people) and the action has started but is not yet a turn away from normal, leave the cell blank.

53362_Short Stories_30		
Spanish captain was walking on his ship.		orientation
A soldier rushes to him and says, "An enemy ship is approaching us".		complicating
Captain replies calmly, "Go get my red shirt".		new complicating
The soldier gets the shirt for the captain.		
The enemy ship comes in; heavy rounds of fire are exchanged. Finally, the Spaniards win.		new complicating
Soldier asks, "Congrats Sir, but why the red shirt ?"		
Captain replies, "If I got injured, then my blood shouldn't be seen, as I didn't want my men to loose hope."		MRE
Moral: For success, hope is very important.		evaluation
Just then, another soldier came in and said, "Sir, we just spotted another 20 enemy ships!"		return of MRE
The captain calmly replied, "Now Go bring my yellow pants".. :p :p		return of MRE

17393_Life Lessons_14		Reason
Being immature and unprofessional.	abstract	
When I was 16 years old, in my first Law School year, I was contacted by one of the justices of THE Supreme Court.	orientation	
This super important person reached out to little nobody me and offered me a job.	complicating action	
It had nothing to do with law: he had read a note about me in the newspaper because in my senior year in high-school I had won the	complicating action	Continuing the first

national spelling and grammar contest, and he wanted me to teach grammar and spelling to his 8-year-old son.		complicating action
I went to his office, he gave me his card, I said I would do it, promised to call... and never did.	MRE	
Yes, I sabotaged what was probably the most brilliant career headstart in the history of law because I couldn't figure out how to do what was wanted of me and panicked.	MRE	Still in the story frame, so it's not an evaluation
Oh, well. I'm no longer in law anyway.	aftermath	

19202_Life Lessons_0		
Once, when I was in fifth grade science class, we were learning about nuclear power, and my teacher told us that everything exposed to nuclear energy glowed in the dark.		orientation
One of my classmates raised his hand and asked if that included people who worked at the power plants.		complicating action
The teacher said that they also glowed in the dark.		new complicating action
I raised my hand and told her that this isn't true. I explained to her that my father worked in a nuclear power plant and he didn't glow.		new complicating action
She asked me if I had ever actually seen my father in the dark. Really?	MRE	
At this point, it was pretty much useless to try to explain to her the many, many problems with her entire argument.		resolution

## Complicating Action

A complicating action is a single event that increases the tension of the story. It is found at the part of the story when the chain of events is turned away from normal, everyday routine. This ordinary routine (or ‘equilibrium’) is disrupted in a manner that causes it to become remarkable, or raises a question or mystery. The complicating action has a causal component, in that it introduces a new condition that makes it possible for the MRE to occur, because it starts the chain of events that eventually requires explanation and resolution.

We use this label multiple times to indicate a series of complicating actions that build tension with each occurrence. It is not obligatory that there is a complicating action (but there is always an MRE). However, if the text seems ambiguous, keep in mind that it is better to have a complicating action before the MRE, because a complicating action usually makes an MRE causally possible.

When labeling complicating actions, ask yourself: 1. Does this event cause the tension to rise? 2. Is this event on a causal chain that eventually leads to the MRE? Both answers must be yes for the event to be a complicating action.

A complicating action can be explicitly named or implicitly implied. Label the first explicit sentence that names or describes the action. Focus on an explicit statement of an action (“The door was closed”) or a statement that shows a realization that is a turning point (“She was struggling”).

5685_Experiences in Life_17	
I was at a residential treatment center (RTC). An RTC is very much like mental hospitals, except from the clients live there anywhere from 2 months to a year, as opposed to staying there for about 3 - 15 days. This RTC had five units - 4 of them were adolescent units (12 - 17) and then there was the pediatric unit (11 and under). I didn't know the youngest age the RTC would take. An RTC is for people who've been in the mental hospital at least twice and have problems that are severe enough that a short stay in an intensive hospital will not be enough. They need to be away from home longer and get to the root of the problem.	orientation
Requirements to being admitted to the mental hospital is being a danger to yourself and/or others.	orientation
So we did this thing on Sundays when we get all the units together and danced. There was this one little boy and one of the clients on an adolescent unit asked him how old he was.	complicating
He responded, "I'm 5." A five-year-old was in an RTC.	MRE
I didn't know why he was in the RTC, but the fact that a 5-year-old had to be in an RTC is just sad.	evaluation
I didn't know what problems were occurring in his life, but something very bad must've happened to him in his 5 years of life.	evaluation

36820_Survey Question_29		
I don't know if it's unprofessional or not ( because I don't know what behaviors doctors include in their profession) but it was certainly the most inhumane word that I ever heard.		abstract
This is my father's experience. After his cardiac arrest he was admitted in a good private hospital. His condition was severe and he needed a ICD machine to keep his heart operating. The amount of a good ICD machine is nearly ~5-8 lakhs and it was unimaginable for a humble background like ours. So our family decided to go for Employee State Insurance which ensured our expenses would be paid off. (It's not a payment to the doctor himself but to the charge of the operation and the machine.)		orientation
The night after the operation when my father's chest was opened and the heavy machine was inputted, he was in dreadful pain and said to the doctor, "Sir I'm feeling like I will be dead."		complicating action
He replied, "I don't give a damm if you live or die. I'm not even getting a full-charge." And left with great annoyance.		MRE
My father told me this after he came back home a month later. That doctor is quite a famous surgeon and so much enough wealthy that I wonder what he lost if he didn't get a full-charge for a single patient. They don't even do ESI , this was an exceptional case in their hospital.		resolution

### Differentiating between a Complicating Action and its details

A *complicating action* will sometimes be followed by details of that action. Typically, these details contain state descriptions (e.g., somebody looks a certain way), or actions that immediately follow the complicating action without raising tension. These do not have to be labeled as complicating actions.

However, do include all details needed that give the complicating action its label. That is, the details that cause the tension to rise.

33060_Life and Living_44	Categories	Explanation
It was my nephew's bday last year. He is little shy ,always teases me like gives chocolates to every one but not me. We celebrated his bday and I was playing with him.	orientation	
He might have heard from some one that I would be leaving in an hour or something so he hid my shoes.	complicating action	This first cell is the actual complicating action.
While he has awesome acting skills for his age. I could see his eyes filled up with tears but he was pretending that he was OK.	details of the complicating action (do not label)	State descriptions, so details.

Then I started searching shoes, then the relatives too.	new complicating action	An event that causes the event to rise somewhat, as many people are mobilized.
He started to say now u can't go as you can't find your shoes ,you stay.	MRE	
It was really the best thing happened to me. This is the best gesture of love I have ever received from some one	evaluation	

Below is an example of a complicating action that is long, because it needs to include all information to gain the necessary impact.

9302_Experiences in Life_47		
The calculations in the picture are completely unrelated to this story, as is this caption, but the image makes for a good anecdotal graphic regardless.	direct comment	
My high school physics teacher is infamously known for making his Physics classes the hardest in my school, far harder than any other of the AP or honors courses offered. His tests were always curved significantly, because (by his own admission) he graded harshly, always gave way too many hard problems, and made sure to give us not nearly enough time, causing even the best of students to run over a good 5 or 10 minutes. To get even a B+, he always said, meant that you had mastered every possible facet of the topic; to get an A+ meant you had a clear path to becoming a Theoretical Physics major. Probably an exaggeration, but one that had gone down in countless legends throughout the years.	orientation	
My best friend, on the other hand, was infamously known for being the least grade-conscious smart student ever to grace our graduating class. He'd dominate most of us in the math contests and standardized tests but nonetheless struggled to get even the smallest of homework assignments in on time, or at all. I remember him flaunting to me last year how he finally got a high enough GPA to make the honor roll, even if it was the lowest distinction possible. We all knew he had quite the sizable intelligence given his accomplishments, but none of us had thought he was brilliant. At least, none of us did until one day...	orientation	
It was another one of my physics teacher's classic tests, and just minutes before my friend was panicking—not because he had neglected to study as usual, but because he hadn't brought his calculator to school today. These exams were thought to be impossible to get better than a C on without one, and my teacher gave PM's (30 minute mini detentions) to those who forgot them on test days as a staunch reminder of this.	complicating	
Naturally, I assumed the worst, as the unit in question dealt heavily with forces on objects along inclines, and that meant performing trigonometric functions on obscure angle measures.		
My teacher, of course, expected us to have our answers in decimal form to receive any points, accurate to 3 or so decimal places, as what could easily be a death knell for any careless student.	complicating action	
My friend was the talk of the hour that day; while I wasn't there to see it, after the exam, he allegedly walked out of the room with a smile on his face, boldly proclaiming that he	MRE	

had finished the exam with a good 10 minutes of nap time. Most were, of course, incredulous, but the bigger shock, as we discovered later, was that he had gotten nearly a perfect score on the exam, despite having no calculator. As it turned out, my friend had devised some sort of method in his head for quickly approximating the sines and cosines of angles to two or three decimal places in the first 10–15 minutes of the exam; from there, everything else fell into place.	
I'm positive he had to have devised it in the heat of the moment, as opposed to having learned it from somewhere else, as he's absolutely averse to studying or learning of any form and I'm certain we've never learned any such shortcuts or tricks of the sort on how to do so.	MRE
My friend, without a calculator, developed after 10–15 minutes of thought a way to quickly approximate the sine and cosine of any angle to 2–3 decimal places, enabling him to ace a physics exam most of us would have struggled to even finish on time and still have 10 or so minutes of nap.	MRE
He got a near-perfect score on his test that day.	resolution
He also got a PM.	aftermath

## MULTIPLE COMPLICATING ACTIONS

Some stories contain several complicating actions that increment the tension one by one.

In these cases, the second action is labeled *new complicating action*. This new label is introduced because we consider two consecutive complicating action labels to be the same action. To differentiate, we must add the “new” part.

Here is an example of two separate actions that are considered to be part of the same complicating action.

34565_Life and Living_18	Labels	Explanation
I remember the day I told my mum I was pregnant like ti it was yesterday. It was actually 20 years ago!	abstract	
I was 17 when I found out I was pregnant. I actually didn't suspect anything but had a friend who thought she was pregnant so I did a pregnancy test with her as moral support - joke was on me as she wasn't and I was.	complicating action	Tempting to label this as orientation (“I was 17”), but the complication is dominant
I waited about a week before I found a way to tell my parents. I decided that my mum couldn't kill me if we were in public so I made a dr appointment and told mum my period was late. We went to the Dr together and I took a test.		
Obvioulsy it was going to come back positive and it did. My mother and I have never had a good relationship and I have always been very much the black sheep, this confirmed it.	new complicating action	The discovery
It was the most stressful day of my life and she was utterly crushed on the way home. There were a lot of "what will people say" type comments and ultimately her response was "I think you're too young", to which I replied "I don't believe in abortion". That was the extent of the conversation.	new complicating action	The reaction
She went on to discuss it with everyone but me and I stayed at home with my family until I was about 6 months pregnant. When I did move out she helped me get set up.	complicating action	Further reaction, part of the previous action
The experience itself was terrifying but ultimately it was over quickly and the disappointment only lingered for a while. My family were supportive but very judgmental.	MRE	
We all made it through and I now have 3 more beautiful children. My parents love them all and things have worked out.	aftermath	
As a former teen parent I have been involved with programs to help other young parents.	aftermath	

Your world doesn't end when you find out you'll be a parent earlier than you thought but it will be different.	Evaluation	
Telling your parents is terrifying but at the end of the day it can't be avoided so it's better to get it over with.	Evaluation	
If this isn't a hypothetical question, I wish you the best of luck with not only telling your parents but with your journey.-+++++++	direct comment	

48926_Storytelling_8	Categories	Explanation
When I was in the Marines, I knew a guy.	orientation	
He called me one day and said, "I just saw some paperwork. You'll be getting sent to Japan for 6 months soon, unless you want to be sent to Camp Lejeune (where I had lots of friends). But if you go there, you will join a unit that's going to depart for Iraq in December, and there's going to be a war (this was almost a full year before the Iraq War started).	complicating action	Initial information
With this information I spent a few weeks thinking about the various possible outcomes of this decision, and in the end I opted to go to Camp Lejeune because if there was a war, I knew I might make a real difference to a few good men.	new complicating action	Reaction, new complicating action
I'm very smart, fairly strong, and have always performed very well under pressure, and I knew that I could save some lives that might have been lost if given the chance.	Details (don't label)	State descriptions, not a new complicating action
During the war I was in a major battle and got blown up inside of an AAV. I carried two guys with half-blown-off legs out of the vehicle, which by then was basically a fireball on top of a big pile of explosives, on top of 1,000 pounds of fuel.	MRE	
Today those guys have wives and kids, and that's a really incredible thing to me when I think about it from time to time.	aftermath	
I chose not to go to Japan a year before the war even started, and now those children exist.	evaluation	

55497_Short Stories_5	
WIT AND HUMOUR OF DR. EINSTEIN'S DRIVER-TWO GENIUSES	Abstract
As a young man with a growing reputation, Einstein received many invitations to go to universities to explain his theories. On these trips he was always chauffeured by the same person—a man called Hans. Hans often said to him, "It's a pleasure to drive a genius like you, Dr. Einstein."	orientation

One evening, on their way to a remote university, Einstein said, "I wish I didn't have to give my lecture tonight, Hans. I'm so tired. But I can't let my audience down, can I."	complicating action
"You don't need to," said Hans. "We'll change places, and I'll give the lecture for you. I've listened to it a dozen times. I don't understand it, but I know it by heart. And no one knows you at the university, do they? No one will find out." Einstein eventually agreed with Hans, but said to him, "Don't try to answer any questions, whatever you do."	new complicating action
They changed places, and at the university, Hans was greeted and led to the platform in a great hall crowded with professors and students. Einstein joined the audience and listened to Hans give his lecture perfectly, and joined in the applause at the end.	new complicating action
However, before Hans could get off the platform, a professor shouted from the audience, "I'd like to ask you a question. It's very difficult but please answer it." He then asked the question so difficult that Hans had no idea what he was talking about. Einstein thought, "Oh Dear, now we're in trouble."	new complicating action
But Hans just laughed and said, "That's not a difficult question, sir. In fact, it's so easy even my driver knows how to answer it. Hans, stand up and....."	MRE
Einstein stood up and answered the question perfectly.	MRE
They left the university, with Einstein driving. A little later, Hans offered to take over from him. "No my friend," laughed Einstein, "it's a pleasure to drive a genius like you."	Resolution
Edit: This is my first hundred upvoted answer. I just copied from net and pasted. :P	Direct Comment

Notice how each complicating action is a new action, but the consecutive MREs are basically part of the same action (i.e., reaction to the question).

**MINOR RESOLUTION**

A minor resolution is a resolution of tension or a mystery that does not result in resolution of the entire story. There are thus a few things the minor resolution label can signify:

- 1) The solving of a lesser mystery in the story, or a partial solution to the main mystery.
- 2) The resolving of tension of a lesser problem in the story (but not whole story), or an incomplete resolution of the main problem (e.g., the patient is released from the hospital but not fully recovered).

If a minor resolution is followed immediately by a full resolution, label both as resolution; there is no need to differentiate further which one is minor and which one is full. Due to the nature of these, this category usually occurs about halfway through the story, and not at the very end. For example:

5583_Experiences in Life_17	Categories	Explanation
My daughter was always bright, intelligent and very perceptive, especially when it came to relating to people around her, from an early age. She was quite talkative and enjoyed looking at picture books and being read to, as well as listening to stories and songs on records and tapes.	Setup	
When she started school, I assumed she would be like me and learn easily.	Setup	
However, she was struggling. I had hearing and vision checks done, over and above the ones done by a visiting school nurse as I was quite worried. She did not seem to be catching on to how reading works, and decoding. In fact, if anything, from her actions and what she said, she seemed to think that somehow people had to learn books off by heart to be able to read them. Progress was terribly slow in lots of other areas as well. Unfortunately, reassured by tests that said nothing was wrong, I just helped her as much as I could, and also paid for extra assistance, but it still was making no real difference to her learning. She was 8 years old and had been at school for three years and still could not read or write etc.	Complicating	
Finally, I was able to have her tested by an occupational therapist. Based on her inability to copy patterns with diagonals in them, the therapist told me that she did have a problem with her eyes.	Minor resolution	mystery resolved, but challenges still lie ahead
However, most optometrists do not diagnose the type of problem she had. we had to travel to a distant city to be checked. I found it difficult to get time off work to do so, so I could not take the soonest appointment, and waited a couple more months.		
We set off on the long trip, by car, with some of her story books in the car. After testing, the optometrist said she needed glasses		

immediately, and we waited in that city, while the prescription was made up. She also had to do months of eye exercises.		
In the car on the way home, she began looking at her books, and exclaimed 'Oh Mummy, aren't the pictures in the books so pretty!' I was stunned. Her vision had been so poor that she could not even discern pictures in the books.	MRE	
There were other auditory discrimination and processing problems still to surface, be diagnosed and overcome, before she began to learn to read. This day was just the start of a years long battle she had, a battle made even more difficult because the teaching of early reading should have already happened, and she was so far behind schedule.	Resolution	More complications but on the way to recovery.
I had tried to hard to find out what was wrong early on, and been fobbed off with the message that there was not a problem. As someone who learnt easily and enjoyed reading so much, it broke my heart to think of what my daughter had been battling.	Evaluation	
The happy ending is that she obtained a Bachelor of Nursing Science and works as an anaesthetic nurse at a major hospital.	Aftermath	

4118_Experiences in Life_7		
Yes ... I don't know how I was saved.		abstract
I was in Delhi , and people in India clear know how it's traffic is. Now one day I was traveling though DTC(Delhi transport Corp.) Bus , a green Lane one .		orientation
So the bus stop was a little away from were I wanted to get down. I did it many times so I was at door step and my good luck bus was slowing down due a small jam which was clearing up .		orientation
Looking at that opportunity I got down and at the same time bus got its speed , and I started to run backwards . which was impossible to match with that bus speed and I fell down in between road where lost of vehicals were on the move .		complicating action
I just got lucky that a motorcycle missed to crush me, but bigger problem was just behind me.		minor resolution
Another bus was near to me , and I don't know why that driver didn't see me lying down.		complicating action
I thought I was dead, I was clearly under its left side tyres . Even the bus was so close that it can't move . It was certain that it'd left tyres would crush my body . I was just lying and looking towards it. I wanted to move but I was like paralysed. I saw it coming ....		MRE
Suddenly at single strike I just rolled to other side, and the bus just crossed touching my shirt. I can feel the bus tyres crossing near me and leaving dust on my face.		MRE
After this happened my friends dragged me , and for 5 mins I was out of world . ....		resolution

## **MOST REPORTABLE EVENT (MRE)**

The most reportable event (written as MRE) is the action or idea that makes the story worth telling. It is the most unusual or surprising occurrence; if you could only choose one idea to share from the story, it would be this one.

This event introduces tension, in the same manner as a complicating action, but it also has some unique qualities that means there can only be one in a tale. A sentence or sentences qualify as an MRE if two criteria are fulfilled:

- 1) It is an explicit event at the highest tension point of the story.
- 2) If you only report one event as the summary of the story, it is this one.

When deciding which sentence to annotate in the vicinity of the climax, pay attention to the action that expresses the main point. Focus on an explicit statement of an event (“We won!”), or a statement that shows a realization of a turning point (“He had never loved me.”). The events that contribute to an MRE are often implied before the MRE is stated: do not label these an MRE. The first sentence of this label should be explicit MRE statement.

Afterwards, check that your MRE contains all the information necessary for it to be reportable. For example, don’t leave out information that indicates “the dinner guest was treated like a god” and only include “the guest had dinner”.

Examples of MREs:

4118_Experiences in Life_7	
Yes ... I don't know how I was saved.	abstract
I was in Delhi , and people in India clear know how it's traffic is. Now one day I was traveling though DTC(Delhi transport Corp.) Bus , a green Lane one .	orientation
So the bus stop was a little away from were I wanted to get down. I did it many times so I was at door step and my good luck bus was slowing down due a small jam which was clearing up .	orientation
Looking at that opportunity I got down and at the same time bus got its speed , and I started to run backwards . which was impossible to match with that bus speed and I fell down in between road where lost of vehicals were on the move .	complicating action
I just got lucky that a motorcycle missed to crush me, but bigger problem was just behind me.	minor resolution
Another bus was near to me , and I don't know why that driver didn't see me lying down.	complicating action (this is a new one)
I thought I was dead, I was clearly under its left side tyres . Even the bus was so close that it can't move . It was certain that it'd left tyres would crush my body . I was just lying and looking towards it. I wanted to move but I was like paralysed. I saw it coming ....	complicating action (part of the previous one)

Suddenly at single strike I just rolled to other side, and the bus just crossed touching my shirt. I can feel the bus tyres crossing near me and leaving dust on my face.	MRE
After this happened my friends dragged me , and for 5 mins I was out of world . ....	resolution

4029_Experiences in Life_7	
Yes. A hedgehog saved my life when I was at college.	abstract
I used to work nights and cycle home at 4 am. There was a long decline, then a bend in the road, then an incline. I would usually cycle around the bend full speed, and rely on my hearing and the glare of headlights to see if anyone was coming.	orientation
One night I was cycling home with headphones in as I'd had a bad shift, and going along full speed I saw a hedgehog in the road, and braked just before the bend. Usually I would have just dodged the hedgehog, but the song I was listening to just made me feel like stopping and watching it for a second.	complicating
Just as I pulled up, a UPS truck came around that bend at that moment full speed, taking the racing line with its headlights off. I would have not have even felt a thing.	MRE
The hedgehog was killed.	resolution

### Differentiating between MRE and its details

As with other categories that include details, we do not annotate the details of the MRE. The below is only an indication to help you locate the MRE sentence in amongst the details.

Details of an MRE are most often found directly before or after the statement of an MRE. For example, the MRE statement (“We won!) might be followed by the details of that event (“We didn’t give up the whole time”). These details are often a description of its precise events, stages or salient nuances. These details should not be included in the MRE label. Details can be before or after MRE, but first sentence must be an explicit statement of when defining action starts.

Here is an example of the MRE with details noted. Notice how each detail zooms in an event that contributes to the overall MRE:

57259_Short Stories_42	
This is the real one...	direct comment
San Francisco transformed into Gotham City for the day to grant 5-year-old cancer victim's wish to become a superhero	abstract
The streets of San Francisco have transformed into Gotham City so that a young cancer victim can achieve his dream of becoming a superhero.	orientation

Five-year-old Miles Scott, from Sikiyou County, near Oregon, has assumed the persona of 'Batkid', donning a mini cape in his crusade to rid the city of its fiercest foes, the Penguin and the Riddler.	orientation
Thousands of volunteers signed up to help cheer along the boy, who is in remission after a four-year battle with leukemia, as he enjoys his dream day granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.	orientation
When the charity, which grants wishes for ill children, asked Miles to name his dream, his answer was simply: 'I want to be Batkid!'	complicating action
It sparked a massive effort by the foundation, friends, strangers and the city of San Francisco to ensure this heroic little boy could achieve his dream.	MRE
Finally, on Friday morning, he was called into service by San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr. Hundreds of people lined the streets and cheered as he emerged from the Batmobile - driven by an adult Batman - before freeing a damsel who had been tied to cable car tracks.	Details of MRE
As she embraced him in thanks, he got a call that the Riddler was trying to rob a vault downtown, so headed to the Financial District and promptly stopped the thief in his tracks. News cameras captured the moment the Riddler was hauled from the bank and taken away by police officers. After battling his enemy, he headed to Burger Bar to refuel, his Make-A-Wish itinerary explained.	Details of MRE
While at Burger Bar, he received get a call on his batphone to go to the window where he saw a huge group of volunteers screaming for Batman's help - because the Penguin was kidnapping a famous Gotham City mascot - Lou Seal.	Details of MRE
Batman and Batkid raced to AT&T park to apprehend the villain and freed Lou Seal, the San Francisco Giants mascot since 1996. After catching the Penguin, Batkid made his final stop at City Hall, where the Mayor and the Police Chief of Gotham City thanked him and gave him the key to the city. Batkid was praised for his efforts, with Senator Dianne Feinstein tweeting: 'Thanks for saving Gotham, Batkid!'	Details of MRE
Ahead of his heroic efforts, little Miles underwent acrobatic training with his 'Batman', inventor and acrobat Eric Johnston, to prepare him for his big day.	Details of MRE
Johnston and his wife, Sue Graham Johnston, who played the damsel, even created Bat-style gadgets such as a wrist device that played previously recorded messages from San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr for Batkid throughout the day.	Details of MRE
Johnston said of Batkid: 'He's an excellent superhero because he's a totally mild-mannered kid when the mask is off. But when he puts on the armored Batsuit, he's uncontrollable. He shines.'	Details of MRE
Around 1,000 special edition 'Gotham City Chronicle' newspapers will be handed out at Union Square today, with the headline: 'Batkid saves city.'	Details of MRE
And even the illustrators for the original Batman are involved, after Andrew Farago, curator of the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, reached out to cartoonists and DC Comics. Graham Nolan, who drew the Batman series through the 1990s and co-created of the villain, Bane, was the first to respond - and sent through a drawing showing Miles as Batkid fighting Bane.	Details of MRE
Nolan signed it: 'For Miles, a real superhero!'	Details of MRE

We certainly all were children who had dreams of being a superhero and being larger than life,' Farago told the Mercury News.	resolution
But I think this has touched people because most of us have never had to overcome the obstacles that this boy has.'	resolution
While the day of saving damsels in distress and capturing the Riddler will no doubt be great fun for Miles, it is also an important day for his family.	evaluation

### **RETURN OF MRE**

When the MRE theme comes back after a resolution in a new way, either in time or in action, we say it is a 'Return of MRE'. This event is a new twist on the main theme. It allows the tension to rise again after the Resolution - it must be at similar level of tension and importance as the MRE (not like Olaf's melting problem being solved at the end of 'Frozen'). It is also separated from the MRE by time or other narrative functions (if not, it is simply the same event as the MRE).

Both return of MRE and resolution can occur at the end of a story so it is useful to differentiate between them.

- Return of MRE preserves tension until the end. It can also introduce new events or ideas.
- Resolution records a drop in tension. One way the tension can drop is when the mystery of the story gets explained or solved.

The Return of MRE can be seen in two slightly different kinds of story: in one a split action can be the central event, and the other concerns folktale structure. These two kinds can be seen as follows:

1) Sometimes the MRE is comprised of two sequential actions or ideas, in the same manner as a *complicating action*. In these cases, label the first *MRE* and the second action Return of MRE. For example:

6569_Experiences in Life_13	Annotation	Explanation
I read many responses and they are all amazing, mine is not monetary/gift that I got in return, it's actually something inexplicable but worth writing here as a response and leave it up to you readers' to decide, please let me know what you think.	direct comment	Could be abstract ("it's something inexplicable"), but the comment aspect is much more salient.
I was born and brought up in a small town in Madhya Pradesh in India. I was in 11th grade and was an average student with no career plans. Me and my friend decided to study together at nights but that was merely an excuse to have fun nights away from home (got a free room in a temple to study as his dad was a trustee there). One night	orientation	

we decided to go out for a movie (now you know why we were studying together :) and went to another friend's place to ask him if he was interested (no cellphones then). His dad was a doctor and had a small clinic at home where we were deciding which movie to watch (clinic was closed, it was 10 in the night).		
As we were about to leave, someone knocked on the door, my friend opened the door to check and we saw an old lady standing, almost crying in pain (abdominal pain) asking if my friend's dad was home. My friend said to her that clinic is closed and his dad is not home but since we couldn't watch her in pain, we asked her to lie down on one of the stretchers in the clinic.	complicating action	Actually this is a complicating action + details.
My friend didn't know when his dad would be back and the old lady was in an excruciating pain, we're worried for her but had no idea how to help her.		
Since my mom used to have frequent abdominal pain, she taught me and my brothers how to tie the calf muscle down to alleviate the pain, no idea yet how it works (maybe just by diverting the attention). So, I asked my friend for a hankie and a small pebble and tied this poor lady's calf muscle.	new complicating	
Amazingly and thankfully, it worked and she felt better in a few minutes and the first thing she uttered was "You'll become a doctor one day" (pointing at me) and pointing at my friend, she said, "you'll become an engineer"(I could imagine why she probably said that to me but hard to understand why she said my friend will become an engineer, she had no idea of me being a bio major or my friend being a math major).	MRE	
Being so average in studies (me and my friend got 51 and 50% marks, respectively, in 10th grade, so you can imagine how poor we were), we paid no heed to her words and never talked about it thereafter.		
Fast forward 20 years, I'm a Doctor (PhD in Biomedical Sciences) and currently a researcher at one of the top 5 Universities in the world. My friend went on to become a civil engineer from one of India's premier schools and became an urban planner and the other friend got his PhD from Portugal and is a senior lecturer there.	return of MRE	If the woman had said they would become doctors and they became housewives, the point of the story would be completely different. The point of the story is that the advice comes true (it 'returns')
It may just be a coincidence but given how average students we were (plus my financial situation, my parents had a hard time making the ends meet), I feel her words somehow just worked wonders.	evaluation	

40506_Survey Question_38	
Many, many years ago, when I was still married to my now-ex, I started getting weird voice messages late at night from a woman—this came from an anonymous number (remember when landlines had a “block caller ID” feature”). She sounded really drunk, stoned, or out of it. She obviously knew who she was calling, because she addressed me by my first name.	complicating action
What was creepy was that she seemed to know a lot about me, like where I worked and what I did for a living. She mumbled on, and each phone call would end with, “I’m going to tell your husband, (CORRECT FIRST NAME), what you’re doing. I swear, I’ll do it if you don’t stop!”	MRE
(???)	direct comment
I had no clue what this woman was talking about. Was she insinuating that I was having an affair—? What was she going to tell my then-husband? That I’d eaten the last carton of yogurt? That I charged a new dress on the card?	
Anyway, about a month later, I got a phone call from a male friend who lived in California.	
Turns out, he’d been dating a woman who thought that he and I were involved “in that way”. He had given her just enough information about me to make her paranoid. He told me that she had been drunk when she called, apologized, told me that he’d broken up with her straight away.	resolution (mystery resolved)
I was cool about it.	
Some people, you know.	evaluation
The extremely creepy part? She was a physician who treated human beings.	return of MRE

2) The second application of Return of MRE can seem quite different on the surface. This is often found in anecdotes that have a well-structured ‘folktale’ quality, in which the lesson learned (the MRE) repeats throughout a story. In these cases, label the first occurrence as the MRE and the second occurrence as the *Return of MRE*. For example:

53362_Short Stories_30	
Spanish captain was walking on his ship.	orientation
A soldier rushes to him and says, "An enemy ship is approaching us".	orientation
Captain replies calmly, "Go get my red shirt".	complicating action
The soldier gets the shirt for the captain.	
The enemy ship comes in; heavy rounds of fire are exchanged. Finally, the Spaniards win.	new complicating action

Soldier asks, "Congrats Sir, but why the red shirt ?"	
Captain replies, "If I got injured, then my blood shouldn't be seen, as I didn't want my men to loose hope."	MRE
Moral: For success, hope is very important.	evaluation
Just then, another soldier came in and said, "Sir, we just spotted another 20 enemy ships!"	new complicating action
The captain calmly replied, "Now Go bring my yellow pants".. :p :p	Return of MRE

## RESOLUTION

This event is the last on the main causal chain which resolves the dramatic tension or mystery of the entire story. When the dramatic arc concludes with a statement that indicates the main action is passed, we label this a resolution.

A resolution can also be thought of as the conclusion of a situation created by the MRE. Hence, it is often a concluding action of the story, found after the MRE, but can be followed by aftermath or evaluation.

Prioritize resolution over other end categories like aftermath or evaluation. If there is ambiguity between whether to use the label resolution or other ending categories like evaluation and aftermath, and there is no clear deciding factor, pick resolution as a default. People tend to crave resolutions of stories, so we tend to read whatever is positioned at the conclusion of the story as a resolution, unless it is more clearly something else.

Given their similar positions in the story, it is useful to further differentiate between resolution and aftermath:

- In the resolution, the story events are finished. This is the closure of those story events.
- In the aftermath, enough time has passed for a long-term consequence of the events to be realized. An aftermath gives broader implications.

The following are examples:

17393_Life Lessons_14	
Being immature and unprofessional.	abstract
When I was 16 years old, in my first Law School year, I was contacted by one of the justices of THE Supreme Court.	orientation
This super important person reached out to little nobody me and offered me a job.	complicating action
It had nothing to do with law: he had read a note about me in the newspaper because in my senior year in high-school I had won the national spelling and grammar contest, and he wanted me to teach grammar and spelling to his 8-year-old son.	complicating action
I went to his office, he gave me his card, I said I would do it, promised to call... and never did.	MRE
Yes, I sabotaged what was probably the most brilliant career headstart in the history of law because I couldn't figure out how to do what was wanted of me and panicked.	MRE
Oh, well. I'm no longer in law anyway.	aftermath

5288_Experiences in Life_52	
Gave shelter to Pigeons in my bedroom and they sheltered bedbugs all over the home	abstract
In my home in the bedroom pigeons used to come in and take shelter above the cupboard behind the stuff we had dumped- like unused mattresses, old television etc..	orientation
Slowly i did try to scare them out but they would somehow enter.	orientation
And i started to get used to it.	complicating action
They were also used to. If the bedroom window was closed they used to come to hall and knock on the glass door. Once i open the room window they would enter. And if the fan was on they took a different way to traverse. In a way they were adjusted in my home. And we were too.	complicating action
They laid eggs and i loved the chirping of the young ones once hatched..	
Then after few months we realized we could not sleep properly due to ants/mosquitoes.	complicating action
Mosquito repellents were of no help.	
I once got up at 3 AM to find bed bugs!	complicating action
A little more research and found out its the birds !	MRE
My younger brother had rashes on his body and we thought he was developing some allergy.	MRE
Immediately called the pest controllers after shooing the pigeons out.	resolution

15359_Stories_24	
One incident which comes to my mind on reading this question is something which happened with one of my batch mates in M.B.B.S.	abstract
So this guy (I'll just name him 'X') had been through nine to ten months of recovering after a pretty bad road-traffic accident and was very low on confidence in his studies during the latter part of the final year. Soon we were appearing for our university exams.	orientation
The practical exams were specially scary as we had to deal with patients and their moods during our case presentation part. Comes the day of our Surgery practicals and 'X' was almost in a state of panic as he hadn't had much exposure to the clinical part during his illness.	orientation
We all were allotted a patient each for our 'long case' and 'X' was allotted a young female patient on the bed next to that of mine.	complicating
Still in a high state of panic, he had barely started to record the patient's history (the lady looked in a rather bad mood already, since she must have been through this process again and again during the last four days), when, much to the relief of 'X', one senior resident walked by us who was immediately spotted and stopped by 'X' in order to give him a clue about the patient's diagnosis.	complicating

The senior resident looked nervously around and whispered to 'X' - "Examine the chest..." and quickly walked away.	complicating
X' looked more confident and immediately started thinking on the lines of a benign breast disease since the patient was a young woman. He quickly recorded the history, and called up a female nurse while simultaneously confining the patient's bed by placing those green temporary partition curtains. He then went on to examine the patient's breasts which included visual inspection as well as palpation.	
After several long minutes of examination, he emerged from the confines of the curtain looking somewhat worried.	complicating
Most of us had completed our cases and were waiting for the examiners to arrive while he was fidgeting nervously in his chair.	
Suddenly 'X' saw the same senior resident on the other end of the hall and ran up to him.	complicating
X' - Sir, I could not find any positive finding in the patient."	MRE
Sr. Resident - "Why?? It is so blatantly evident!" The resident looked irritated.	MRE
Somehow, after looking at the pleading face of 'X', the resident shrugged and whispered again - "It's a retrosternal goitre. Couldn't you see??"	MRE
X's eyeballs shot out like they do in a case of Thyrotoxicosis. And then he manages to mutter - "Ohhh... Sir... I examined her thinking it was a benign breast disease!!!"	MRE
Facepalm by both resident and student.	resolution
*A retrosternal goitre is a thyroid swelling which grows downwards towards the chest and usually lies behind the upper part of the sternum.*	Direct comment

## Aftermath

The aftermath shows how some story characters ended up a long time after the story ended. This is a form of epilogue; it shows how the story characters went on with their lives after the main events of the story are over.

The difference with resolution is that the resolution happens very soon after the MRE. The aftermath happens a long time after. Here “a long time” is defined relative to the events in the story. If the story happened in the matter of minutes, a long time could be a few days or weeks. If the story happened in the matter of years, a long time would probably be decades after.

When the distinction is not obvious, choose resolution over aftermath, because the resolution carries more importance in a complete story structure.

58997_Short Stories_19	
It was raining quite hard in the evening. A girl was driving her car . A man was also driving his car. As soon as they came close there was an intersection .	orientation
The man blowed light like we do when we give a signal to someone to let us pass first.	complicating
The girl however didn't stopped and damn rammed into the man's car.	New complicating
The man came out of the car and he was furious . He went near the woman and asked her didn't u see I gave signal to you to stop.	New complicating
To his utter disbelief the girl said I also gave u signal by starting my wipers that I will not stop.	MRE
The man fainted on the stop.	resolution
He is still in coma :)	aftermath

9302_Experiences in Life_47	
The calculations in the picture are completely unrelated to this story, as is this caption, but the image makes for a good anecdotal graphic regardless.	direct comment
My high school physics teacher is infamously known for making his Physics classes the hardest in my school, far harder than any other of the AP or honors courses offered. His tests were always curved significantly, because (by his own admission) he graded harshly, always gave way too many hard problems, and made sure to give us not nearly enough time, causing even the best of students to run over a good 5 or 10 minutes. To get even a B+, he always said, meant that you had mastered every possible facet of the topic; to get an A+ meant you had a clear path to becoming a Theoretical Physics major. Probably an exaggeration, but one that had gone down in countless legends throughout the years.	orientation
My best friend, on the other hand, was infamously known for being the least grade-conscious smart student ever to grace our graduating class. He'd dominate most of us in the math contests and standardized tests but nonetheless struggled to get even the	orientation

smallest of homework assignments in on time, or at all. I remember him flaunting to me last year how he finally got a high enough GPA to make the honor roll, even if it was the lowest distinction possible. We all knew he had quite the sizable intelligence given his accomplishments, but none of us had thought he was brilliant. At least, none of us did until one day...	
It was another one of my physics teacher’s classic tests, and just minutes before my friend was panicking—not because he had neglected to study as usual, but because he hadn’t brought his calculator to school today. These exams were thought to be impossible to get better than a C on without one, and my teacher gave PM’s (30 minute mini detentions) to those who forgot them on test days as a staunch reminder of this.	complicating
Naturally, I assumed the worst, as the unit in question dealt heavily with forces on objects along inclines, and that meant performing trigonometric functions on obscure angle measures.	
My teacher, of course, expected us to have our answers in decimal form to receive any points, accurate to 3 or so decimal places, as what could easily be a death knell for any careless student.	complicating action
My friend was the talk of the hour that day; while I wasn’t there to see it, after the exam, he allegedly walked out of the room with a smile on his face, boldly proclaiming that he had finished the exam with a good 10 minutes of nap time. Most were, of course, incredulous, but the bigger shock, as we discovered later, was that he had gotten nearly a perfect score on the exam, despite having no calculator. As it turned out, my friend had devised some sort of method in his head for quickly approximating the sines and cosines of angles to two or three decimal places in the first 10–15 minutes of the exam; from there, everything else fell into place.	MRE
I’m positive he had to have devised it in the heat of the moment, as opposed to having learned it from somewhere else, as he’s absolutely averse to studying or learning of any form and I’m certain we’ve never learned any such shortcuts or tricks of the sort on how to do so.	MRE
My friend, without a calculator, developed after 10–15 minutes of thought a way to quickly approximate the sine and cosine of any angle to 2–3 decimal places, enabling him to ace a physics exam most of us would have struggled to even finish on time and still have 10 or so minutes of nap.	MRE
He got a near-perfect score on his test that day.	resolution
He also got a PM.	aftermath

34565_Life and Living_18	Labels	Explanation
I remember the day I told my mum I was pregnant like ti it was yesterday. It was actually 20 years ago!	abstract	
I was 17 when I found out I was pregnant. I actually didn't suspect anything but had a friend who thought she was pregnant so I did a pregnancy test with her as moral support - joke was on me as she wasn't and I was.	complicating action	Tempting to label this as orientation (“I was 17”), but the

		complication is dominant
I waited about a week before I found a way to tell my parents. I decided that my mum couldn't kill me if we were in public so I made a dr appointment and told mum my period was late. We went to the Dr together and I took a test.	new complicating action	The discovery
Obvioulsy it was going to come back positive and it did. My mother and I have never had a good relationship and I have always been very much the black sheep, this confirmed it.	complicating action	Further discovery, part of the previous action
It was the most stressful day of my life and she was utterly crushed on the way home. There were a lot of "what will people say" type comments and ultimately her response was "I think you're too young", to which I replied "I don't believe in abortion". That was the extent of the conversation.	new complicating action	The reaction
She went on to discuss it with everyone but me and I stayed at home with my family until I was about 6 months pregnant. When I did move out she helped me get set up.	complicating action	Further reaction, part of the previous action
The experience itself was terrifying but ultimately it was over quickly and the disappointment only lingered for a while. My family were supportive but very judgmental.	MRE	
We all made it through and I now have 3 more beautiful children. My parents love them all and things have worked out.	aftermath	
As a former teen parent I have been involved with programs to help other young parents.	aftermath	
Your world doesn't end when you find out you'll be a parent earlier than you thought but it will be different.	Evaluation	
Telling your parents is terrifying but at the end of the day it can't be avoided so it's better to get it over with.	Evaluation	
If this isn't a hypothetical question, I wish you the best of luck with not only telling your parents but with your journey.-+++++	direct comment	

## Evaluation

An evaluation is a comment from the narrator about the significance or meaning of the story itself. This comment is made outside the story frame, about the recounted events. Sometimes it includes a judgement about the nature of the events in the story and its meaning in terms of social morality – it indicates whether it was good or bad, or it can be focused on a value or lesson. It could even be the absence of a lesson, such as “I didn’t learn X”. It conveys the sense that the reader has stopped recounting the process of events and “turn[s] to the reader and tell[s] him what the point is” (Labov, 1972, p. 374). This kind of comment usually happens after resolution or aftermath and thus occurs outside the story frame.

When deciding between categories, it can help to ask yourself if the comment is outside the story frame. If it is outside the story frame, you only have two choices: evaluation or direct comment:

- *Direct comment* addresses the audience.
- *Evaluation* is a summary of the meaning of the story outside the story frame. It is focused on a moral, message, value or lesson.

56123_Short Stories_16	
So it was a bad day for me. I was too depressed about things not falling in place.	orientation
I called up maa and narrated the happenings of the not so good day.	complicating
After some time, I got a call from bhaiya (obviously maa told him everything). He gave me some usual elder brother advice and hung up.	complicating
Within 5 minutes, I get a message about some fund transfer in my account. Curious, I open internet banking and see this - Depression Fund :P And then comes a whatsapp message from him : Shopping is the best cure to depression. Go shop !!	MRE
Crazy day but the end was beautiful.	resolution
This is what brothers can do. They will always be there for you and help you get out of the saddest situations.	evaluation
P.S- It was not the fund transfer that made me happy. It was his concern that did and now I feel on top of this world :D :D	direct comment
56961_Short Stories_20	
Karoly Takacs.	abstract

He is an excellent example of the infinite capabilities of the human will power. Despite being a right-handed person, he won two Olympic golds in 25m rapid fire pistol event, both with his left hand, after his right hand got injured in a faulty grenade explosion.	abstract
Born in Budapest in Hungary in 1910, Takacs had become a world class pistol shooter by 1936.	orientation
He was however denied the opportunity to represent Hungary in the 1936 Summer Olympics on the grounds that he was a sergeant in the Army and only commissioned officers were allowed to compete.	orientation
In 1938 however, the prohibition was lifted and he had hopes of winning the gold at the 1940 Olympics scheduled to be held in Tokyo.	orientation
And then came the fateful day. During an Army training, a faulty grenade exploded, which completely shattered Takacs' right hand.	complicating action
In a moment, all his dreams were shattered.	complicating action
Now he had the following options left before him: 1. Give up shooting : The easiest option. No one would have raised an eyebrow had he decided to do this. He had already earned a lot of sympathy. 2. Continue shooting with his left hand and live his dream : A noble, yet difficult choice. He would have had to fight many people who would say that he can't do it. He spent a month in the hospital. I don't know what was going on his mind in that one month.	evaluation
But, after getting out, he decided that his dreams are too strong too be killed by a single grenade. He started practicing with his left hand in secret. One year later Karoly resurfaced at a National shooting championship in Hungary. His colleagues were delighted to see him and complimented him on his courage to come up at the championship to cheer for them. But Károly surprised them by saying he was there to compete with them. And he won.	MRE
One year after losing his right hand and he trained himself and won.	MRE
Who in the world except Károly himself would have thought this was even possible. People who believe in facts will never be able to explain this. Facts leave no room for possibilities.	evaluation
Then came the real test, the Olympics. But unfortunately, the Olympics of 1940 and 1944 were cancelled due to World War II. Hence, Karoly had to wait for 8 long years for the D-day. But the day finally came.	complicating action
He took the world by surprise, by winning the gold at the 1948 Summer Olympics held in London, defeating the favourite Argentine Carlos Enrique Díaz Sáenz Valiente, who was the reigning world champion at that time. In 1952, he removed the slightest doubt that anyone had on his capabilities by defending his gold. His story has given him a place among the "Olympic heroes" of the International Olympic Committee.	Return of MRE
Truly Inspiring! He is the answer to all those who say that they can't. His story is testimony to the infinite powers of the human spirit.	resolution
I hope you feel a bit inspired after reading it.	direct comment
Sources: Károly Takács The Best Real Life Motivational Story - Károly Takács	

## Direct Comment

This is a comment made by the writer directly to the audience that is outside the flow of events of the story itself. The direct comment label should only be used if it clearly does not fall under evaluation or abstract.

See examples below:

4352_ Experiences in Life_59	
Did a novel inadvertently foretell the sinking of the Titanic? Or was it just an amazing coincidence?	abstract
In 1898 a novella called the "Futility, or the Wreck of the Titan " , which was written by Morgan Robertson, was released. The plot of the book involves the sinking of ship called the 'Titan' after it hit an iceberg. The book was written even before the plan to make Titanic was ever conceptualized.	orientation
Though the book wasn't considered a masterpiece , in the light of the tragedy that befell the Titanic 14 years later the book became famous when people took notice of the eerie similarities the fictitious ship 'Titan' had with the RMS Titanic.	MRE
Let me list down the uncanny similarities. The names very similar- the Titanic and the fictional TitanBoth sank in the month of April in the North Atlantic , 400 nautical miles from Newfoundland.The sizes are similar with Titan having length of 244 m and Titanic having length of 289m .The top speed was 25 knots for Titan whereas Titanic had a top speed of 22.5 knots.Both had triple screw propellers.Both had a crew and passenger capacity of 3000.Both were struck by the iceberg on the starboard side of the ship.Both were the largest ship in the world and were described as "unsinkable".There were not enough lifeboats to save all the passengers in both the ships.	MRE
Nine points I gave above make this one of the greatest coincidences on Earth. Or was it ?	evaluation
Drop a comment and let me know what are your thoughts on this.	direct comment

The story below may create some problems for annotators, but once you see the overall structure it becomes clear:

- I usually sleep during movies. (description of general tendencies, thus orientation)
- During this movie, I didn't sleep. (a turn from normal, thus a complicating action)
- Then my father had to cover my eyes when the naked scene came. (MRE)
- I only realized I was tricked years later. (it happens years later, but the mystery only got resolved at this point, so it is a resolution.)

Thus, it is important we read the entire story first before annotating anything.

22705_Memories_18	
I was 6 Years old when Titanic came to theatres. My parents weren't frequent visitors to the theatre, but Titanic was a movie which they were really looking forward to see.	orientation
During all previous movies that they took me to, I was always busy with either my sleep or the peppermint that my parents bought for me from the cinema.	orientation
I didn't sleep during this movie,	complicating action
I had consumed all the peppermint that I had and was now watching the movie, trying to make sense of what was going on, failing to do so.	Details of the previous complicating action (don't have to label)
Then came the scene.	
We all know which scene it is.	direct comment to audience
As soon as it started, my father covered my eyes and said "beta bhoot hai eyes close kar lo" (Son its a horror scene, close your eyes).	MRE
I tried pushing his hand saying "mai bada ho gya hu, mai nahi darta" (I am grown up now and not afraid of horror scenes), but my father didn't budge, he kept my eyes shut tight.	MRE
Years later, when I saw the movie on my own, I realised that I was tricked. :)	resolution

The reason we label the last line as a direct comment is that it clearly serves a pragmatical purpose: to stop negative comments. This differentiate itself from a comment focused solely on the woman in story, which would be an evaluation.

23148_Memories_9	
Yeah.. So every one is talking about their exes. How wonderful that each and everyone of them loathed the relationship but loved their partners. Alas, I didn't get those lengthy last letters, nor any of those lines from the movies - " I love you, but I can't be with you ".	orientation
So here's what happened, I was having a Strenuous Relationship past 6 months.	orientation
I no longer wanted to continue the mental asylum I was trapped in. So I called her and said the magic words -" IT'S OVER!!!.	complicating
But it wasn't so until both parties agrees to it. Cause you know we are men and men have weakness, they are - woman's tears and a promise of coitus. Yup!	
So I waited for 3 long days to turn things around In our relationship. Finally the day (night!!) arrived, we met at a restaurant, putting our grudges aside.	new complicating
Here's a secret, which no one shares with you - whenever something wicked is suppose to happen in a relationship, your partner tends to appear most Attractive. So, in brief, the Attractive index of your partner is inversely proportional to your relationship life.	direct comment
As I ordered from the menu, I gazed upon her beautiful face.	
I took her hand, i wanted to appreciate her presence in my life and as I was about to say so she said - " IT'S OVER". I was trying to recollect what happened just now. She spoke again -" I am doing this for your own good". What!!??. What the pucker!! And she left. What does that even suppose to mean??!!	MRE
To this day I have no idea why she said that. Of course I came up with number ofÂ purport behind this line in my head. But still those lines ring my head.	resolution
I don't know how things work for most people, but why do we have a break up line for the auspicious occasion such as itself. Can't we just read the signs and move ahead.	evaluation
P.S : I have no ill feelings for the women in general. Please read the contents with sainity. Thank you!	direct comment

## References

Freytag, G. (1863). *Die Technik des Dramas*.

Labov, William. (1972). The Transformation of Experience in Narrative Syntax. In *Language in the Inner City: Studies in the Black English Vernacular* (pp. 354–397). Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia Press.