Creative Memoir Programme

01 Introduction to Memoir Writing – *6 February*

02 Crafting Compelling Life Stories – *8 February*

03 Creative Writing Made Easy: Tools & Resources – *12 February*

04 Moving In & Around Life in Memoir – *16 February*

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852 PRESS

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04 Moving In & Around Life

- Linking personal stories to the world around us.
- Incorporating history, cultural significance, and social movements into memoir.
- Techniques for writing about time and timeline of events.



Your Story & The World

- **History**
- **Cultural shifts**
- **Social movements**

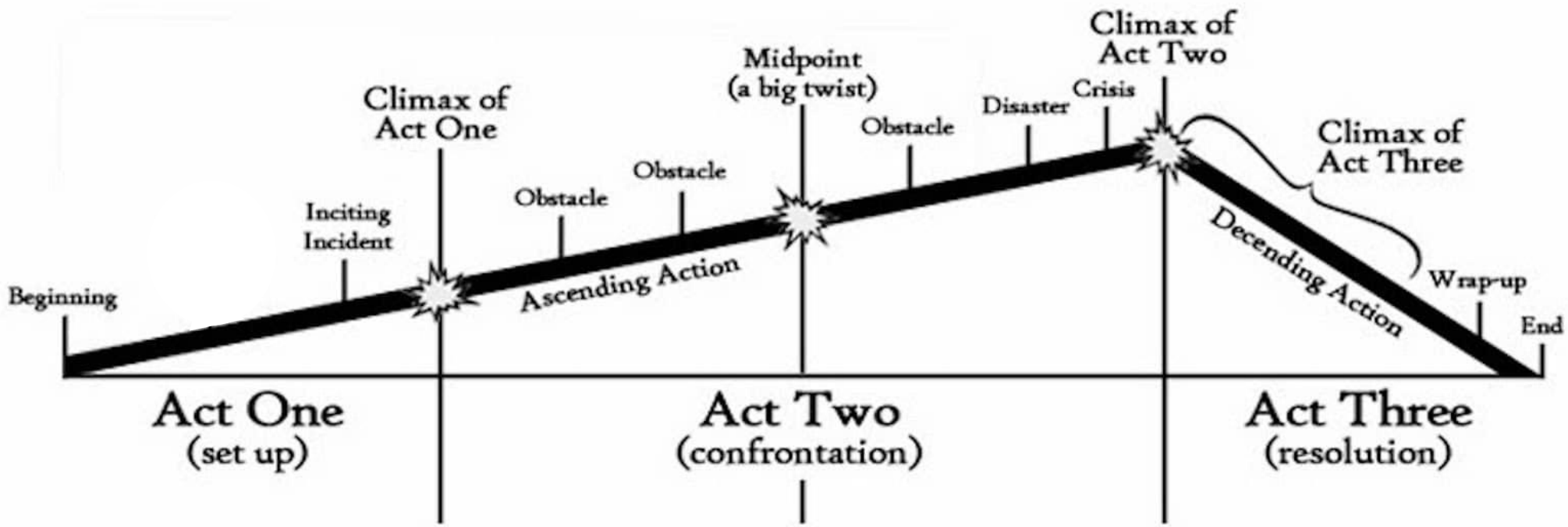


Your Story & The World

- **History** – War, migration waves, significant deaths, Berlin Wall, Y2K, 9/11 & Covid19.
- **Cultural shifts** – Generations, technology, politics and policies, ideas, globalisation, leadership, economics and nature of work & media.
- **Social movements** – Suffragettes to #MeToo, civil rights, Black Lives Matter & LGBTQ.



Three-Act Structure



Map Your Three Acts

ACT 1
Beginning
Inciting Incident
ACT 2
Rising Action
Midpoint
ACT 3
Climax
Resolution

When does your memoir take place?

What are the key years?

What was happening around the world at the same time your story takes place?



Show, Not Tell the Time

**How do you show time –
the past, present, and future –
in creative writing?**



Show, Not Tell the Time

**How do you show time –
the past, present, and future –
in creative writing?**

- Communication & language
- Music, fashion & popular culture
- Technology
- Currency & what we are spending it on
- Activities & lifestyle
- The world around us



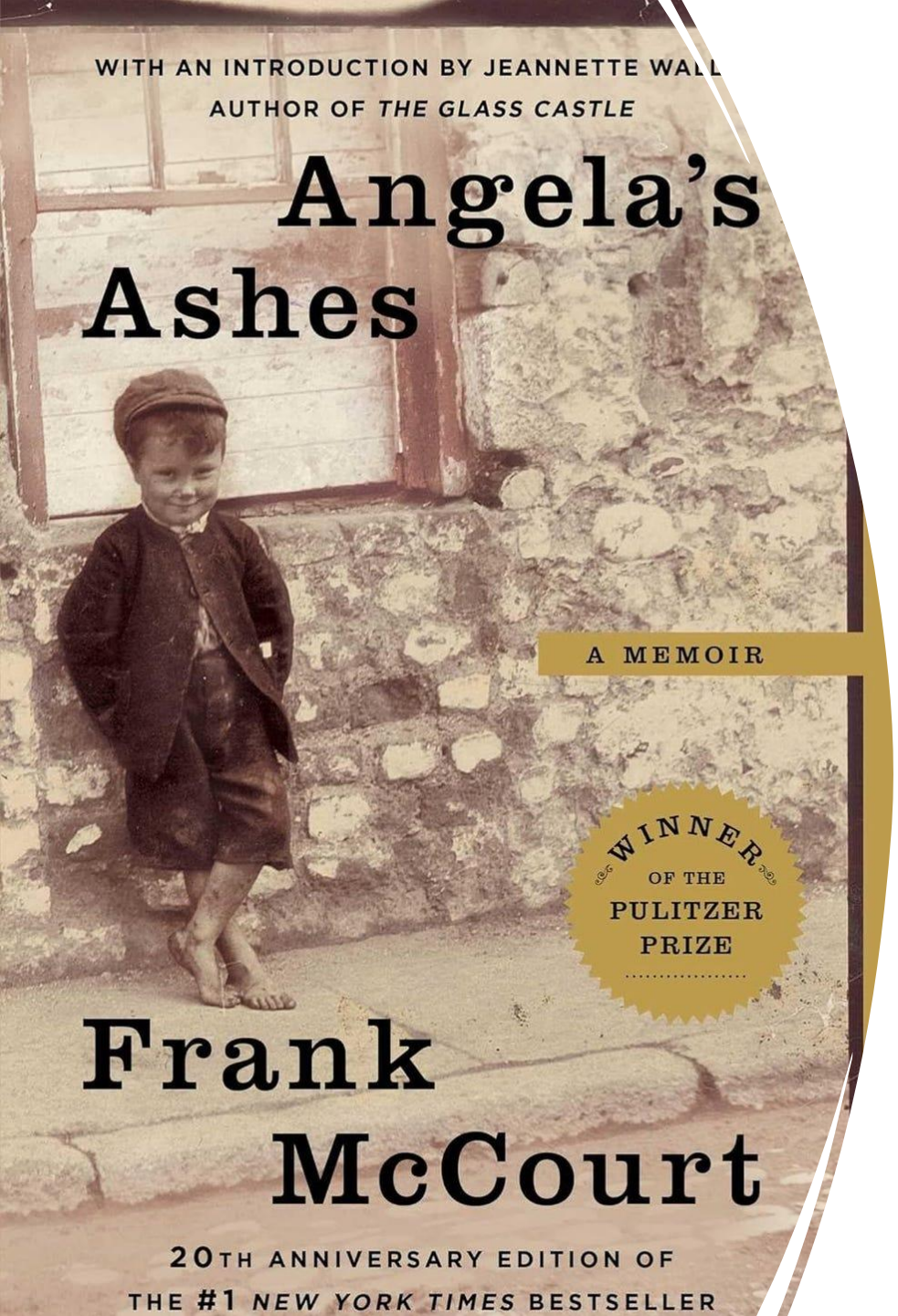
Writing Exercise

The World at the Time

Describe the year and what was happening in the world around you when…

- You had your first romantic kiss.
- The first music you purchased.
- Your first mobile/cell phone.



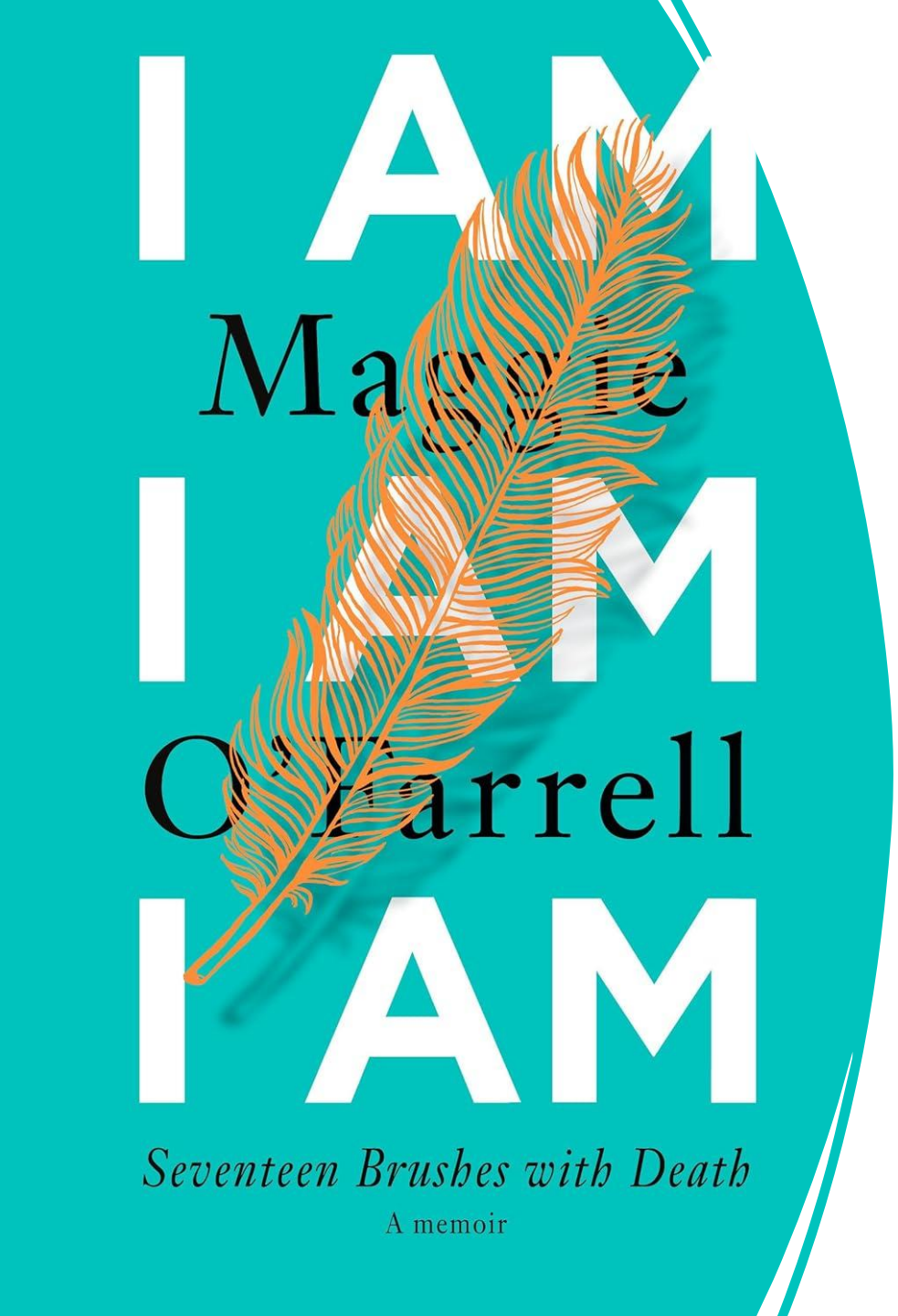


Writing About Time

Chronological Structure

This approach follows the timeline of your life events in the order they happened.

It's like flipping through a photo album from start to finish, leading readers through your story sequentially.



Writing About Time

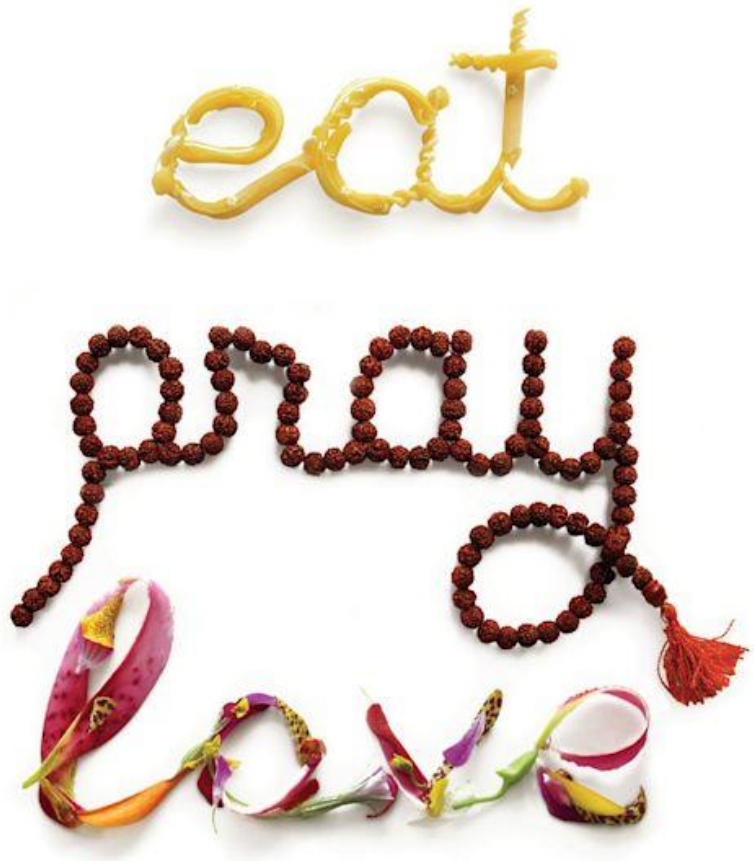
Thematic Structure

Instead of focusing solely on timelines, this method organises your stories around themes or major ideas – a collection of short stories centred on different aspects or themes of your life regardless of when they happened.

ELIZABETH GILBERT

OVER 10 MILLION COPIES SOLD WORLDWIDE

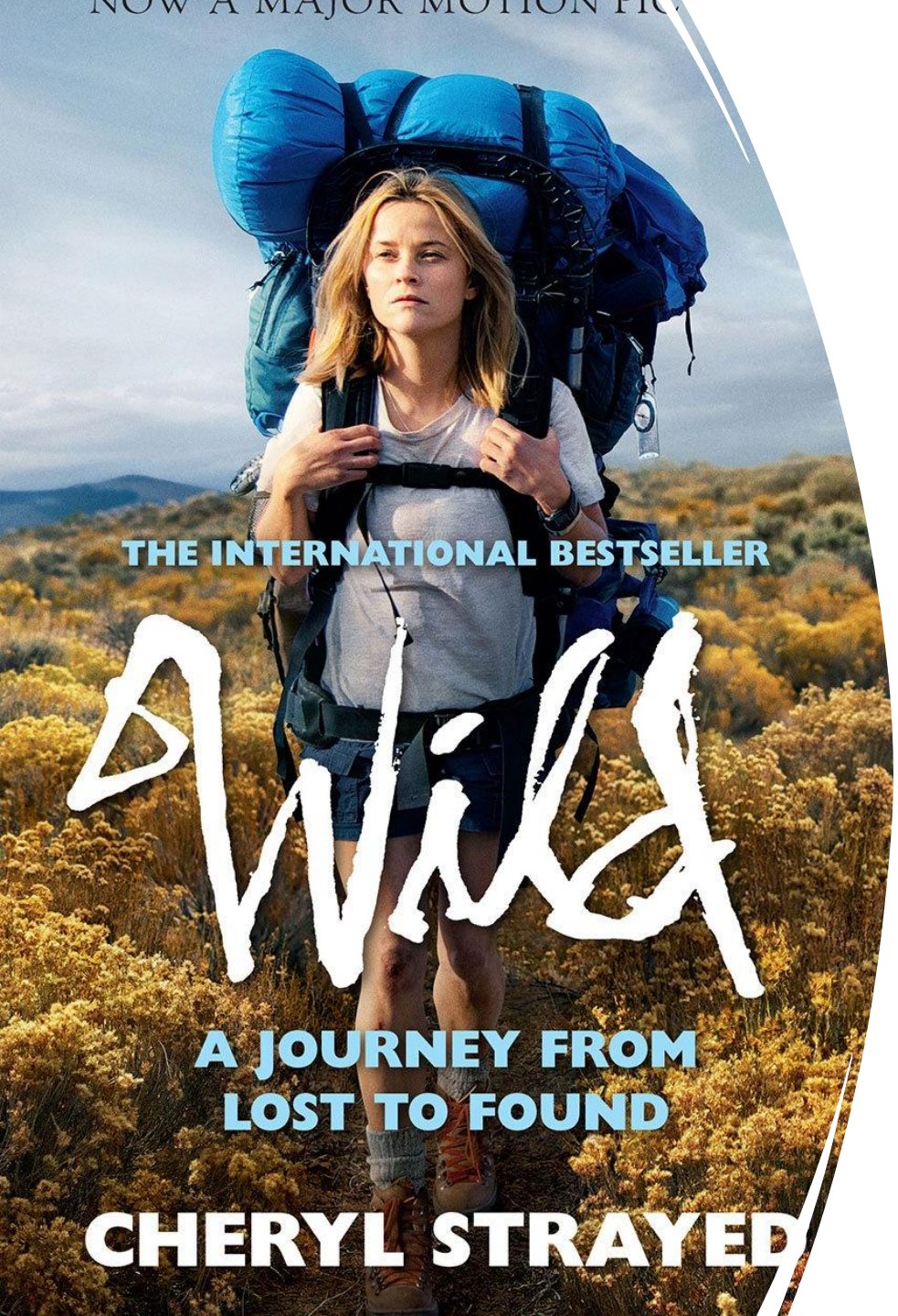
NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE



One Woman's Search for Everything

'Eat, Pray, Love has been passed from woman to woman like the secret of life' Sunday Times

BLOOMSBURY



Flash Backs & Flash Forwards

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Flashbacks are a scene from an unexpected memory that pops up and takes us back to the past.

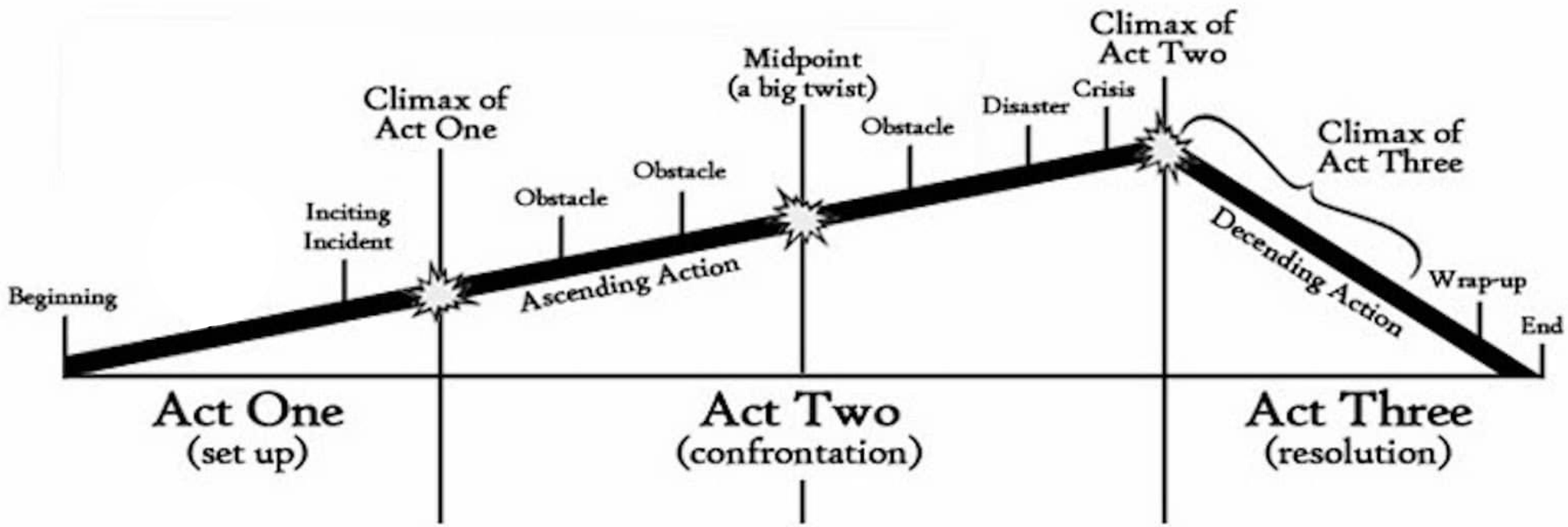
Usually occurs out of chronological order and is a disruptive storytelling element.

***

Flashforwards entail foresight or foreshadowing, presenting knowledge of the future.


KANE

Three-Act Structure



Moving In & Around Life

ACT 1
Beginning
Inciting Incident
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Rising Action
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How can you show, not tell the time?

What was happening around the world at each Act? Does it influence your story?

Where could flashbacks be useful?



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Writing Exercises



Timeline Map

Map out the timeline, the critical months and years of your story, plot significant events, and note your emotional responses at each stage.



Flashback

Choose a significant past event and write about it as if you're experiencing it right now, using the present tense.

Example**:** *I am standing on the doorstep of my childhood home, the familiar creak of the wooden boards greeting me as I cross the threshold.*



Timeline Letter

Write a letter to a friend during a major historical moment from your lifetime.

Reflect and share your thoughts and feelings, and how it shapes your views and personal experiences.

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