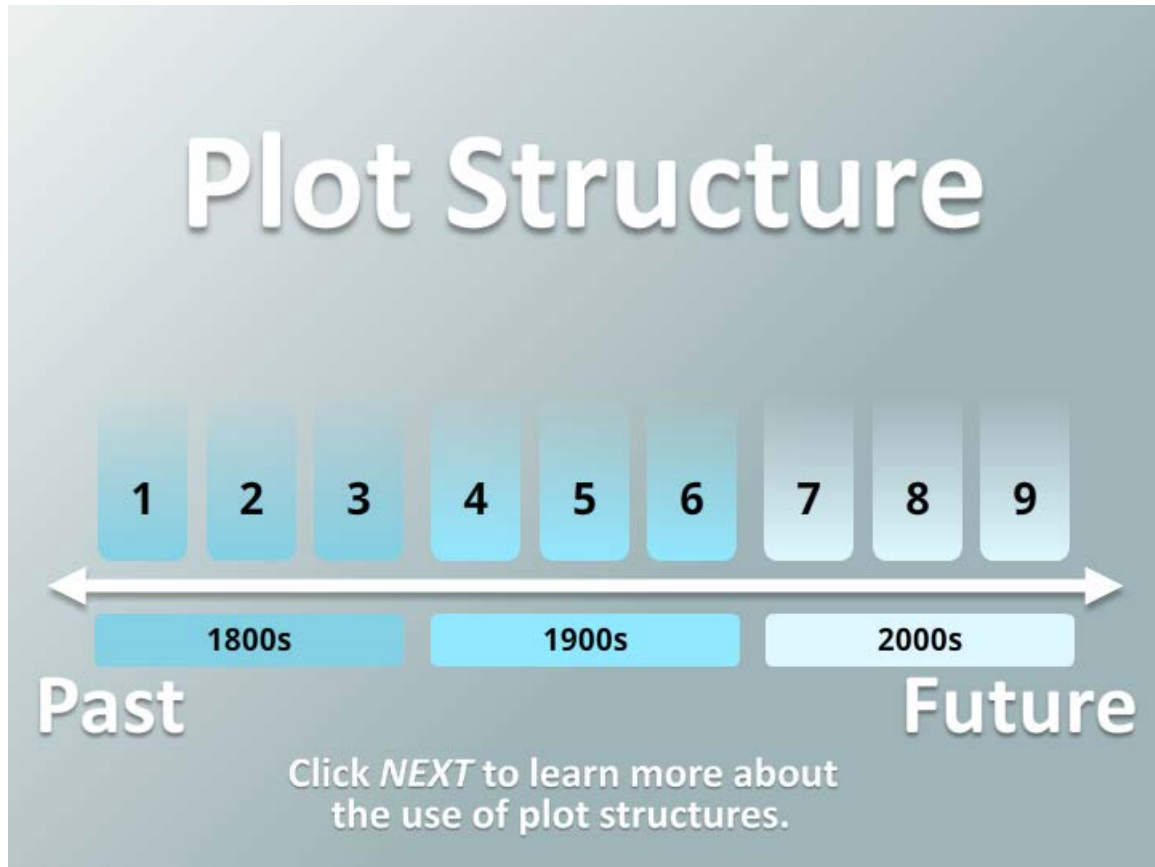


Module 7: Balancing the Individual and Society  
Topic 5 Content: Plot Structure

Introduction



**Plot Structure**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

← 1800s 1900s 2000s →

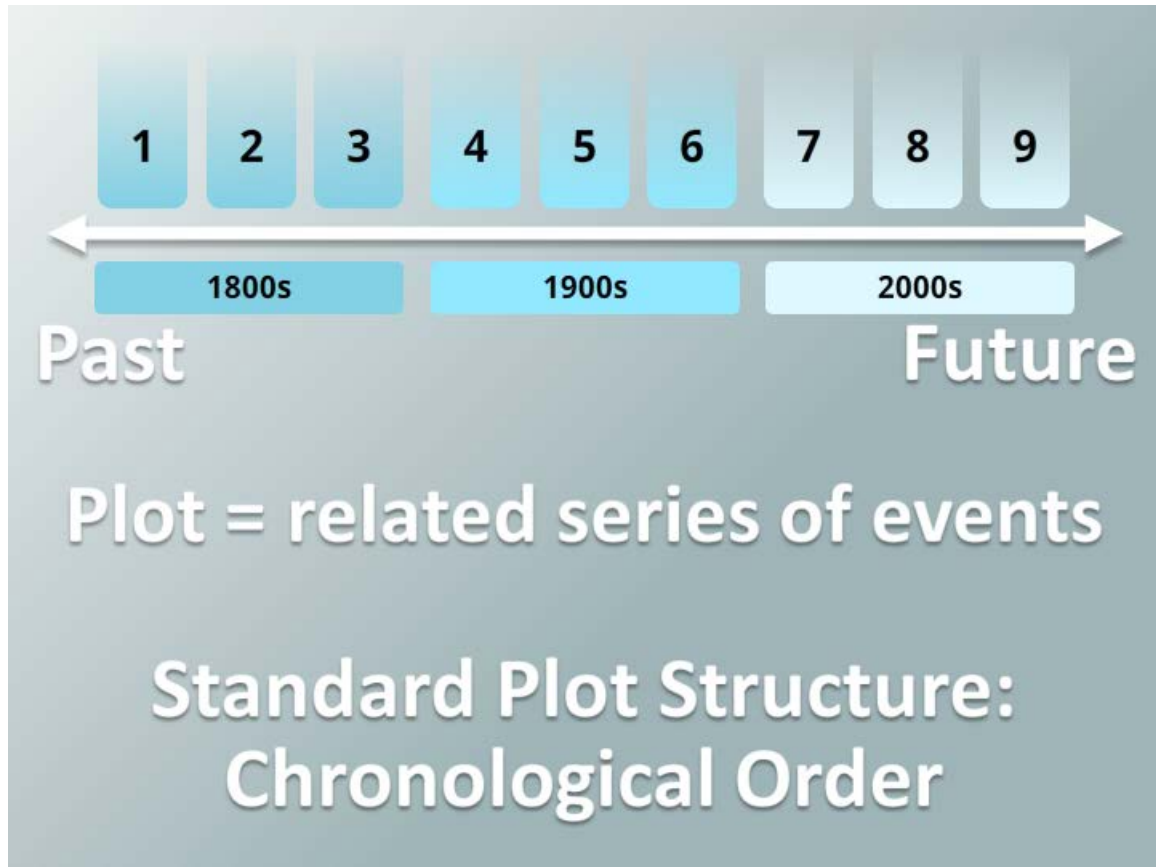
**Past** **Future**

Click *NEXT* to learn more about the use of plot structures.

Click *NEXT* to learn more about the use of plot structures.

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**Standard Plot Structure**

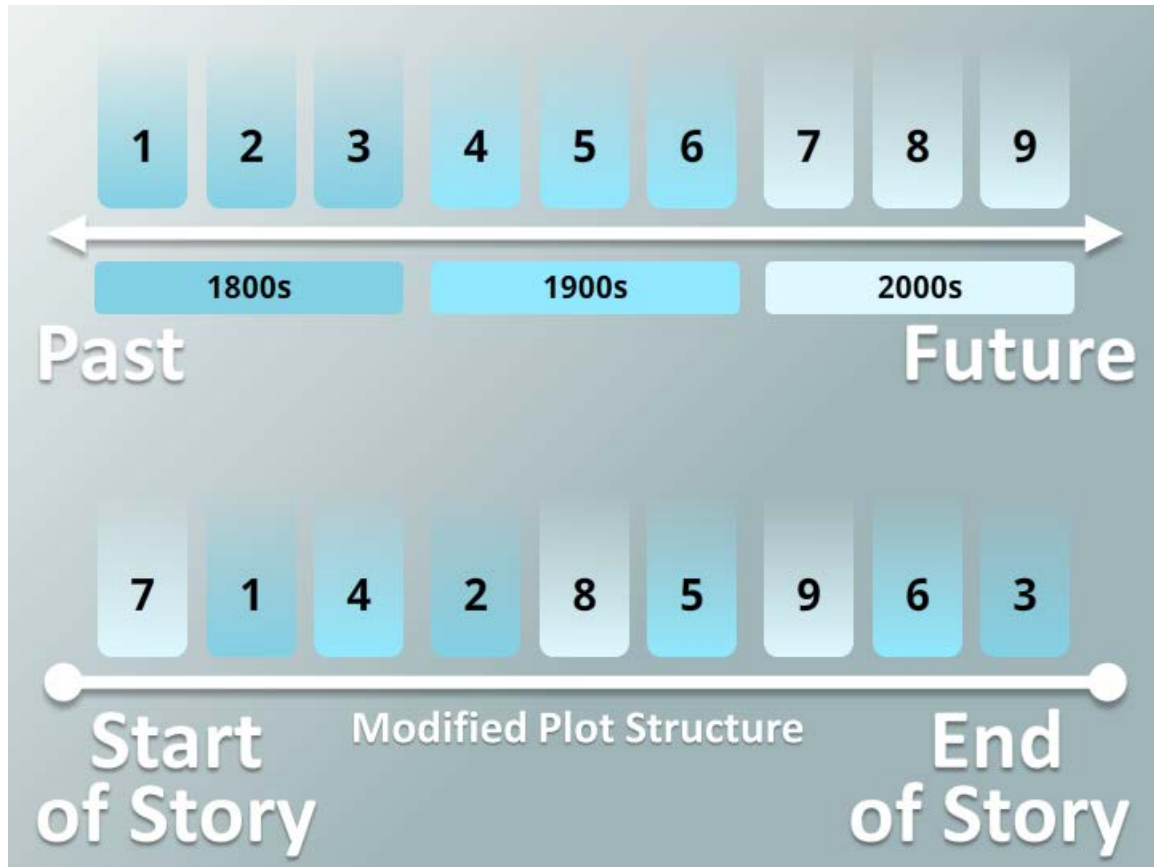


Recall that plot is the related series of events or actions that make up a story. A standard plot structure presents a story's events in the same order as they occur chronologically. For example, suppose that a story features three characters: one who lives in the 1800s, one who lives in the 1900s, and one who lives in the 2000s. If a writer chooses to follow a standard plot structure, then the reader or audience would first learn about the events that occurred in the 1800s, then the events of the 1900s, and finally the events that occurred last.

## Module 7: Balancing the Individual and Society

### Topic 5 Content: Plot Structure

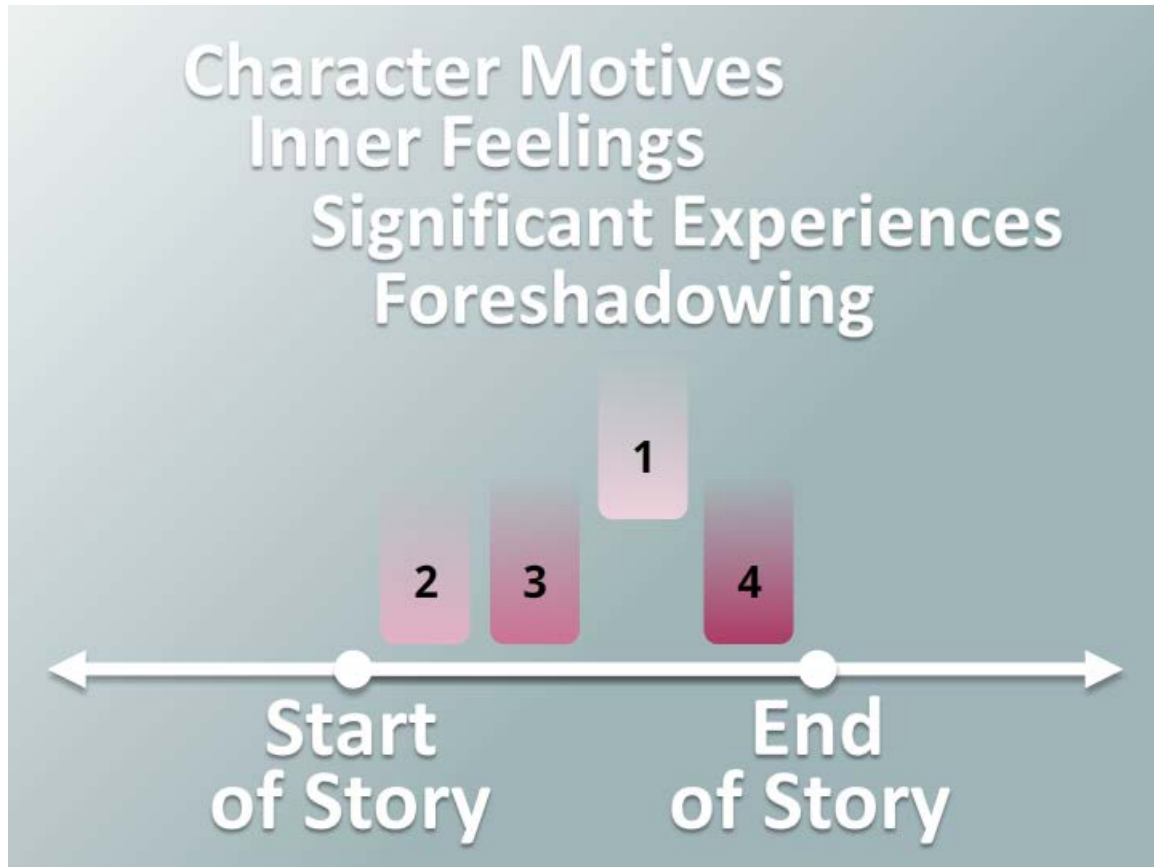
#### Modified Plot Structure



In a modified plot structure, a writer may choose to present the events of the plot in an order that does not follow the chronological timeline. For example, if a story features three characters from different time periods, the plot events may be revealed to the reader or audience in a nonchronological order. By flipping back and forth between time periods, the reader or audience is able to learn about three different characters at the same time. This makes it easier to draw parallels among the different characters.

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**Use of Flashbacks in Plot Structure**



Sometimes, a writer reveals events that occurred before the beginning of the story by presenting them as flashbacks. In literature, a flashback recounts something that occurred in the past. It can take the form of a dream, memory, or conversation. While they often interrupt the chronological flow of the story, they can be an invaluable device for revealing character motives, inner feelings, significant experiences, or foreshadowing of events yet to happen.