

Narrative Writing Study and Guided Notes

CONLEY, WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL, 2017-2018

ADAPTED FROM POWERPOINT GURU ON TPT

Warm Up: Creative Writing

- ▶ Answer the following question on your guided notes.
- ▶ As we move into narrative writing, reflect on your strengths and weaknesses as a creative individual. Are you naturally an “outside the box” thinker? Or are you better suited to following guidelines and directions? Do you feel creativity is a natural gift or a skill that can be nurtured and grown? Explain.



The Storyteller:

- ▶ We will begin a journey traveling through an adventurous land and learning about narrative writing, led by our storyteller.
- ▶ Codename: Grandpa
- ▶ Likes: True Love, Monsters, Revenge, Fencing
- ▶ Hobbies: Squeezing his grandchildren's cheeks
- ▶ Talents: A masterful storyteller. Join Grandpa as he explains the ins and outs of the narrative form while also reciting to you some of the most famous lines from the film *The Princess Bride*.





The Grandson A book?

Grandpa: That's right. When I was your age, television was called books. And this is a special book. It was the book my father used to read to me when I was sick, and I used to read it to your father. And today I'm gonna read it to you.

The Grandson: Has it got any sports in it?

Grandpa: Are you kidding? Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles...

The Grandson: Doesn't sound too bad. I'll try to stay awake.

Grandpa: Oh, well, thank you very much, very nice of you. Your vote of confidence is **overwhelming**.

What is Narrative Writing?

- ▶ The purpose of narrative writing is to entertain the reader.
- ▶ Narrative writing can be fiction or nonfiction.
- ▶ Developed narrative writing should have the following elements:
 - ▶ Developed plot
 - ▶ Central theme
 - ▶ Descriptive setting
 - ▶ Clear point-of-view (narrator)
 - ▶ Interesting dialogue



Grandpa She doesn't get eaten by the eels at this time

The Grandson What?

Grandpa The eel doesn't get her. I'm explaining to you because you look nervous.

The Grandson I wasn't nervous. Maybe I was a little bit "concerned" but that's not the same thing.

There are three types of Narrative Writing:

1. **Personal Narrative:**
When a person writes about himself or about his experiences.
 - ▶ In this style of narrative writing, the writer already has a plot.
 - ▶ Name one example of a personal narrative we have read this year.



Grandpa: [voiceover] Nothing gave Buttercup as much pleasure as ordering Westley around.

Buttercup: Farm boy, polish my horse's saddle. I want to see my face shining in it by morning.

Westley: As you wish.

Grandpa: [voiceover] "As you wish" was all he ever said to her.

Buttercup: Farm boy, fill these with water - please.

Westley: As you wish.

Grandpa: [voiceover] That day, she was amazed to discover that when he was saying "As you wish", what he meant was, "I love you." And even more amazing was the day she realized she truly loved him back.

Buttercup: Farm boy... fetch me that pitcher.

[It's right over her head, so he has to stand next to her]

Westley: As you wish.

[Cut to them kissing]

2. Imaginative Narrative:

When a writer writes a fiction or creates a story it is known as imaginative narrative writing.

- ▶ Here the narrative writer can go beyond the reality.
- ▶ Name one example of an imaginative narrative we have read this year.



The Grandson: [*interrupting*] Hold it, hold it. What is this? Are you trying to trick me? Where's the sports?

[*suspiciously*]

The Grandson: Is this a kissing book?

Grandpa: Wait, just wait.

The Grandson: Well, when does it get good?

Grandpa: Keep your shirt on, and let me read.

3. **Persuasive Narrative**

Essay: When a writer writes a narrative designed to persuade the audience or make a specific point.

- ▶ Persuasive essays will have a central theme and offer evidence.
- ▶ Name one example of a persuasive narrative we have read this year.

Examples of Narrative Texts

- ▶ Realistic Fiction
- ▶ Short Stories
- ▶ Folktales
- ▶ Tall tales
- ▶ Myths
- ▶ Fables
- ▶ Legends
- ▶ Autobiographies
- ▶ Fantasies
- ▶ Historical Fiction
- ▶ Mystery
- ▶ Science Fiction
- ▶ Plays

Day 1

- ▶ Make sure you have the narrative guided notes completed for day 1.
- ▶ We will now watch a clip of the film Princess Bride. As we are watching, be sure to begin to look for the elements of narrative we will go over tomorrow, such as plot, characters, dialogue etc.
- ▶ After watching the clip today, answer the following question on your notes: Using your guided notes, what type of narrative is Princess Bride? Can it fall into more than one category? Why or why not? Give specific examples.

Elements of the Narrative

1. DEVELOPED PLOT

▶ **Narrative plots rely on 5 elements of organization:**

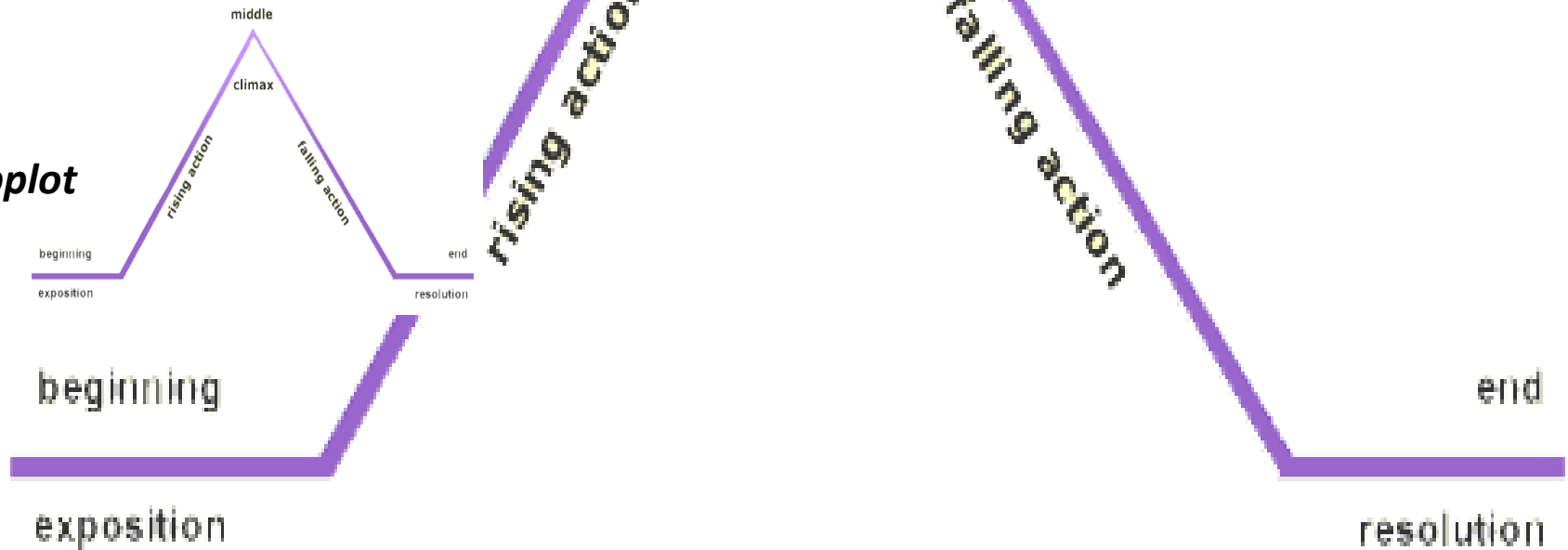
- A. **Exposition: introduces characters, setting & conflicts**
- B. **Rising Action: complications, twists, and intensification**
- C. **Climax: high-point of story**
- D. **Falling Action: result of climax**
- E. **Resolution: final outcome of story**

- ▶ Extended narratives such as plays, novels, short stories, television shows and movies can have more than one plot. These additional plots, or **subplots** are a strand of the main plot that runs parallel to the plot and supports it. It is also known as a minor story or as “B” or “C” story. Its purpose is to add complexity and depth to the story, and thereby increase tension – a state of high interest and suspense about events in a story. Not only does it show various aspects of the characters, connecting the readers with them, but also it is a story within a story.

Plot

Note: Larger stories, such as novels, often will have subplots embedded within the main story

Subplot



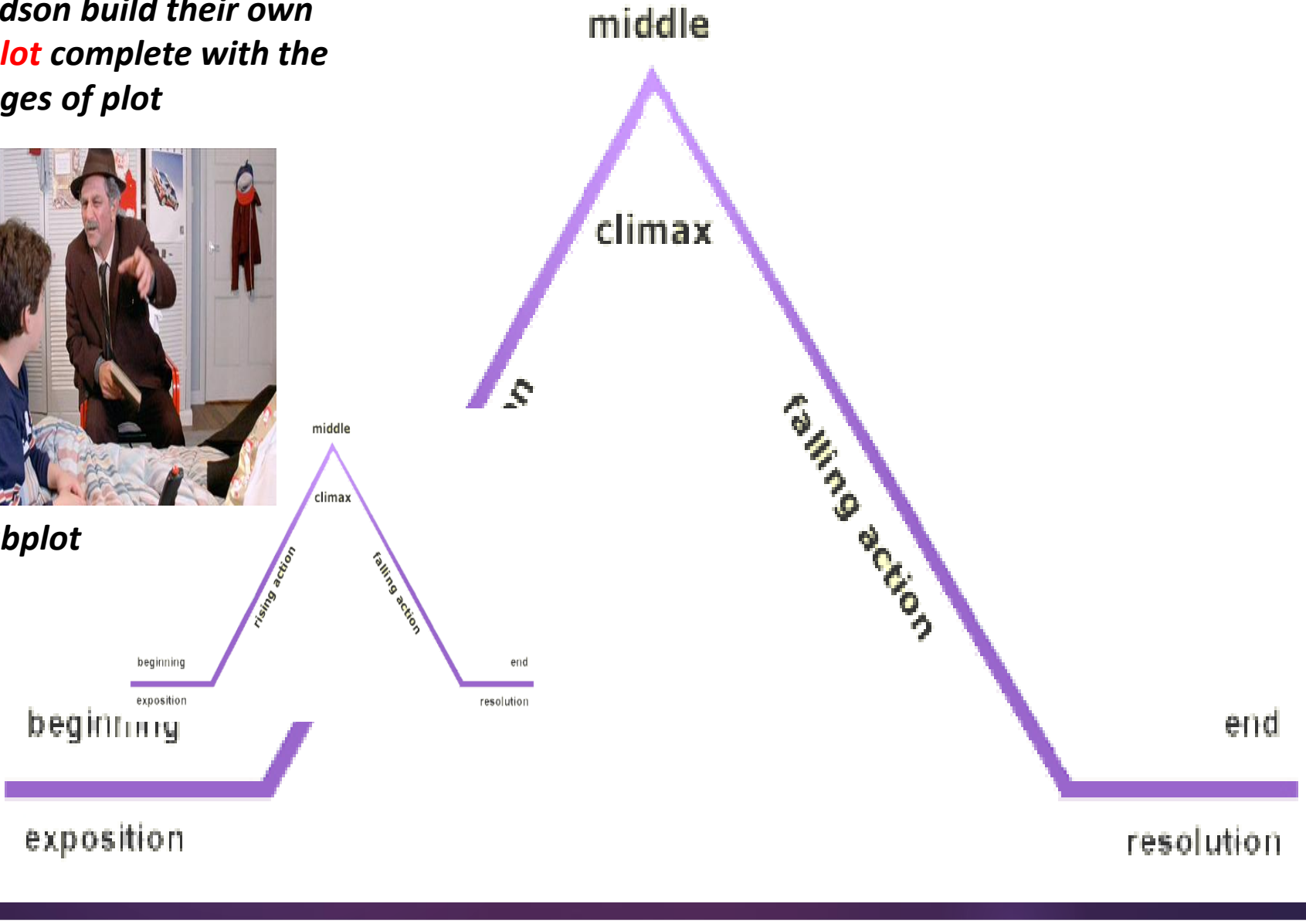
Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.



Note: Our storyteller, Grandpa, and his grandson build their own subplot complete with the 5 stages of plot



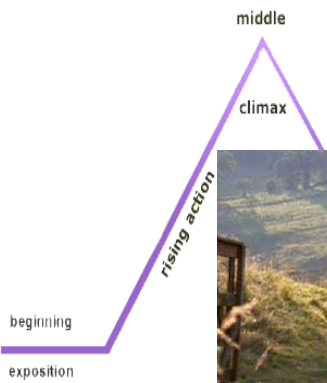
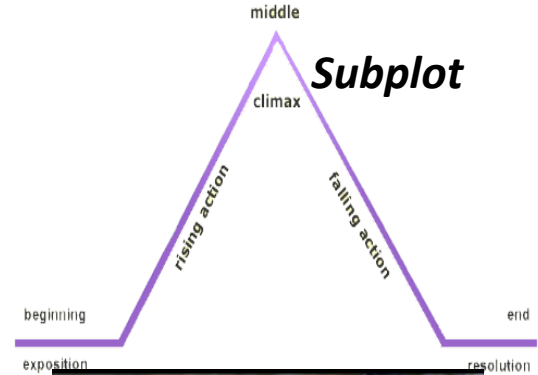
Subplot



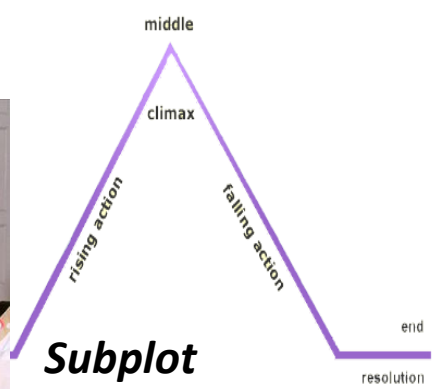
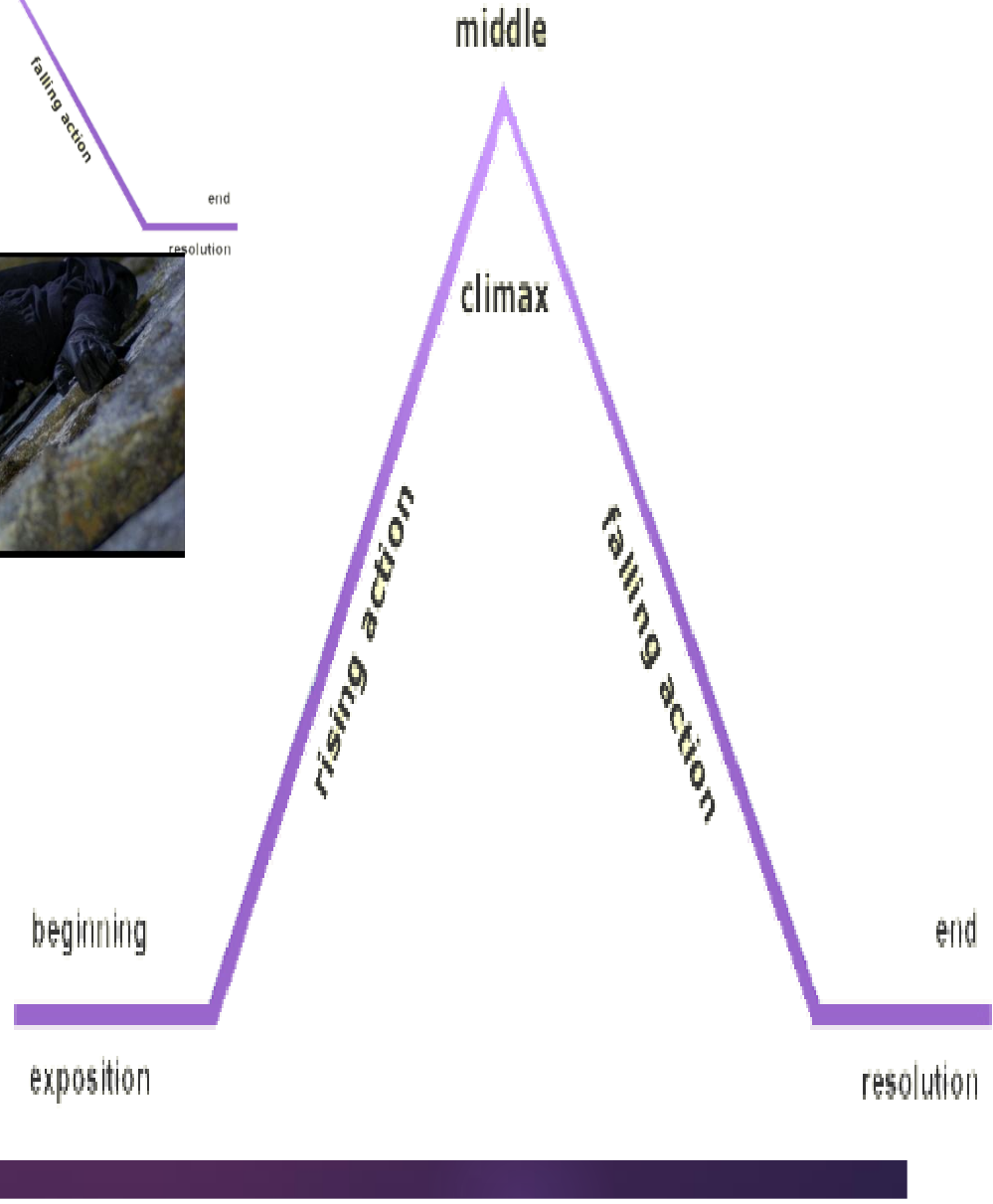


In the case of The Princess Bride you have 3 separate (although linked) plots:

- 1. Boy and Grandpa**
- 2. Wesley and Buttercup**
- 3. The Man in Black**



Subplot



Subplot

The Elements of a Narrative

2. CENTRAL THEME

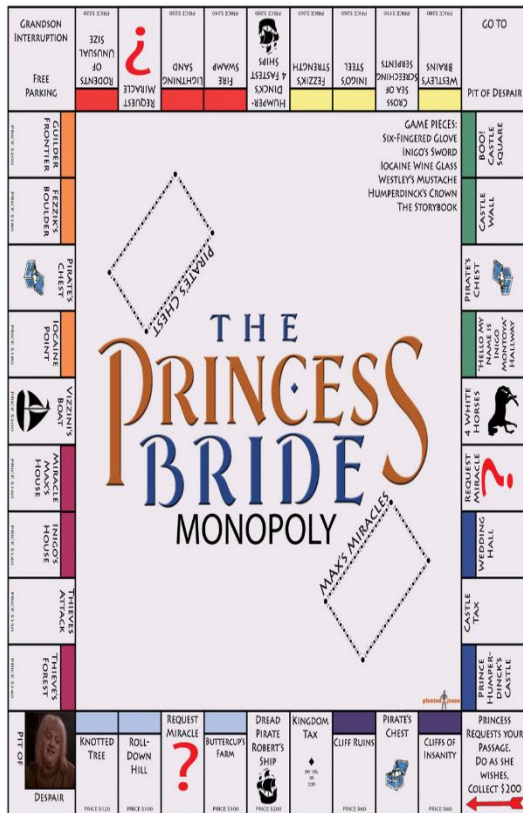
Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.

Themes can include:

- ▶ Love and friendship
- ▶ Good vs. evil
- ▶ Mistaken identity
- ▶ The loneliness of man

The Elements of a Narrative:

3. DESCRIPTIVE SETTING



- ▶ Tells the WHERE (place) and WHEN (time) a story takes place.
- ▶ A strong setting reveals a great deal about a character, specifically their customs and habits— how they live, dress, eat and behave.
- ▶ Writers often use a great deal of sensory language to describe setting. Sensory language appeals to the 5 senses and paints a mental picture for the reader.

The Elements of a Narrative

4. CLEAR POINT-OF-VIEW

► Point of view is the angle from which a narrative is told. Who is telling the story? Examples of point of view belong to one of these three major kinds:

1. **First person** : point of view involves the use of either of the two pronouns “I” and “we”.
2. **Second person** : point of view employs the pronoun “you”.
3. **Third person** : point of view uses pronouns like “he”, “she”, “it”, “they” or a name.

The Elements of a Narrative

4. CLEAR POINT-OF-VIEW



- ▶ *In The Princess Bride the story is told from a 3rd person point of view. The grandpa is reading the story to his grandson. The narrator is outside the story, relaying the events to the viewer and the grandson.*

The Elements of Narrative

5. INTERESTING DIALOGUE

- ▶ A conversation between two or more people in narrative writing.
- ▶ Dialogue can be indirect or direct.
- ▶ Indirect dialogue is the summary of a conversation between two or more characters, while direct dialogue provides the actual quotes in the conversation between characters.



Inigo Montoya: That Vizzini, he can *fuss*.

Fezzik: Fuss, fuss... I think he like to scream at *us*.

Inigo Montoya: Probably he means no *harm*.

Fezzik: He's really very short on *charm*.

Inigo Montoya: You have a great gift for rhyme.

Fezzik: Yes, yes, some of the time.

Vizzini: Enough of that.

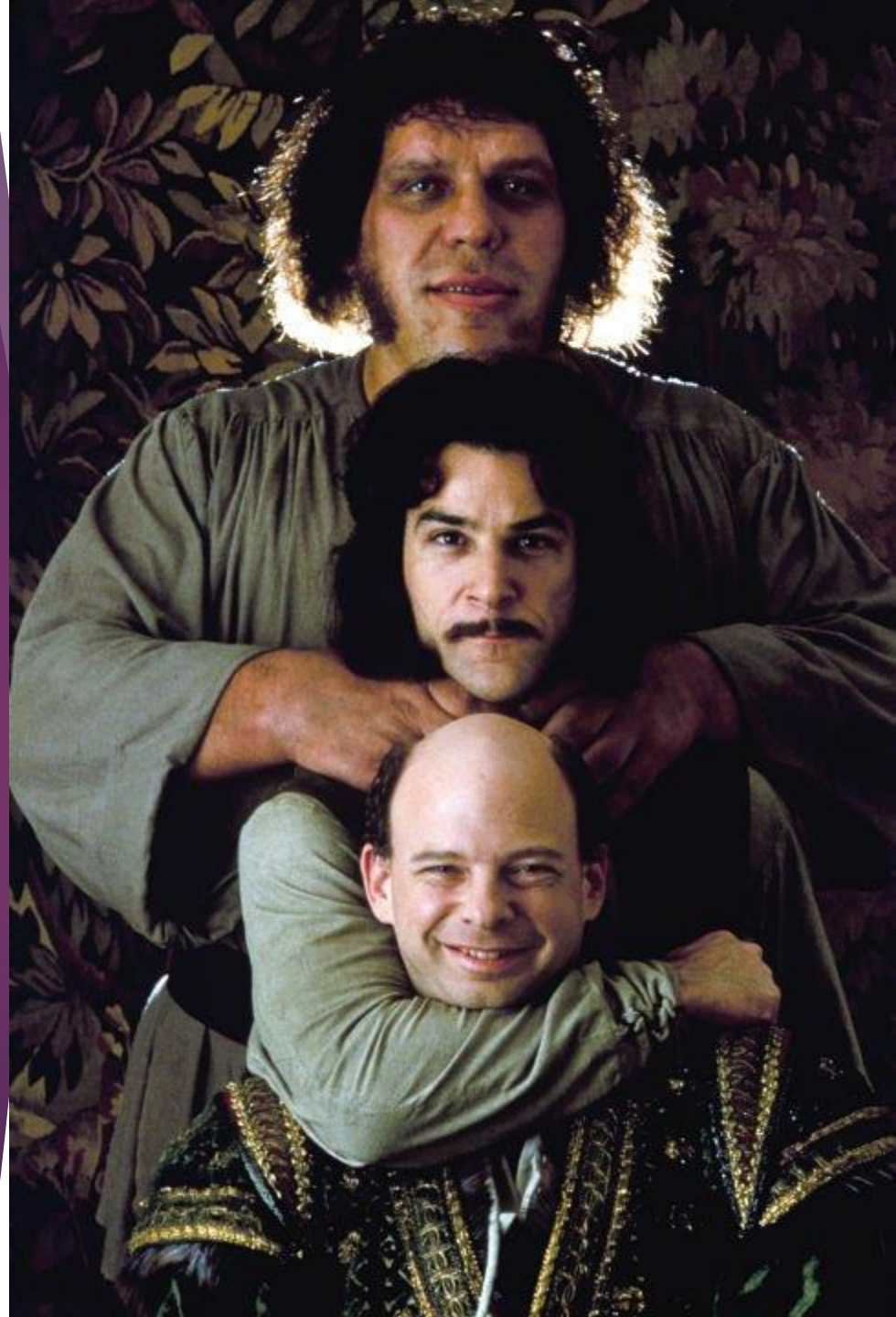
Inigo Montoya: Fezzik, are there rocks ahead?

Fezzik: If there are, we all be dead.

Vizzini: No more rhymes now, I mean it.

Fezzik: Anybody want a peanut?

Vizzini: DYEEAAHHHHHH.



Rules of Dialogue

- ▶ Rules of Dialogue:
 - ✓ When using dialogue don't put two speakers on the same line. They get separate lines.
 - ✓ When someone is talking using dialogue, you indent what they are saying for each new speaker.
 - ✓ A directly quoted sentence begins with a capital letter.
 - ✓ If a quotation comes at the end of a sentence, a comma usually comes before it.

▶ EXAMPLES

Buttercup responds, “**Y**ou can die too for all I care.”
[pushes him down a high hill]
“AS... YOU... WISH!”
shouts back the **Man in Black**.
[realizes Man in Black is Westley] **Buttercup utters**,
“**O**h my sweet Westley what have I done.
[throws herself down the hill]

Dialogue Example

- ▶ **Vizzini** said, “Finish him. Finish him, your way.”
- ▶ “Oh good, my way. Thank you Vizzini... what's my way?”
- ▶ “Pick up one of those rocks, get behind a boulder, in a few minutes the man in black will come running around the bend, the minute his head is in view, hit it with the rock.”
- ▶ My way's not very sportsman-like,” Fezzik responded.
- ▶ What about this conversation is funny/ironic/confusing?

Day 2

- ▶ Make sure you have the narrative guided notes completed for day 2.
 - ▶ We will now watch a clip of the film Princess Bride. As we are watching, be sure to begin to look for the elements of narrative we have gone over today.
- ▶ After watching the clip today, identify each of the 5 elements of narrative in Princess Bride
 - ▶ Plot
 - ▶ Theme
 - ▶ Setting
 - ▶ Point-of-view
 - ▶ Dialogue