

STORY STRUCTURE

Setting: Where does the story take place?

Characters: Who are the characters in the story?

Problem: What is the problem in the story?

Feelings: How do the characters feel about the problem?

Action: What actions do the characters take?

Outcome: How did the story end?

Themes: Is there a lesson in the story?

Batman

 by Hilton Ayrey

Batman was in decline. Time was catching up with the Caped Crusader. He was finding it increasingly difficult to rouse himself in the morning after a night of crime fighting. When he finally did get out of bed, his aching limbs testified to his reduced capacity for all that leaping, jumping and swinging required by his noble vocation. The harsh dietary requirements of a superhero were also becoming an issue. The protein shakes were definitely losing their appeal and he was gravitating more and more to pizza and coke.

He had also noticed that his desire to prowling the street was waning. There were nights when he just wanted to curl up on his lazy-boy and watch TV. Tonight was one of those nights. He had just settled down to watch the final of "The X Factor" (something he had been looking forward to for weeks) when out of the window he saw the night sky light up with that pesky bat signal, calling him to once again combat lawlessness and anarchy. With a sigh of resignation he hit the record button on the TV remote.

As he struggled into his bat suit he was reminded, yet again, of his mortality by the increasing tightness he felt around his midriff. The leather and lycra, once so empowering and invigorating, was now becoming constricting and a little ridiculous. He allowed himself a sideways glance in the mirror. It was getting harder to ignore the bay window that was developing and the increasing broadness of his butt. What had he done with the keys to the Batmobile? This was another worrying tendency. His mind, that finely honed instrument which he relied on so heavily, was not as razor sharp as it used to be.

After yet another fruitless search, he resigned himself to reactivating the Bat Bicycle. He dusted it off, pumped up the tyres and wobbled off down the street. He was vaguely aware of some sideways glances from motorists and a bunch of teenagers who were sniggering as he passed. By the time he arrived at City Hall he had worked up quite a lather and was puffing hard. It took a while to recover as he wrestled with the Bat Lock, trying to secure the Bat Bike to a nearby bike stand. Finally...he straightened his tights, took a deep breath and was ready for action.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Make up your own title for this story.
2. Fill in the flow chart for the story structure.
3. Write the next paragraph to the story - What adventures will Batman have this evening?
4. Story Map - draw a map of the settings in this story showing where the action takes place.
5. Batman wants to spend more time at home at nights. Come up with a solution to his problem. Use diagrams with labels to show your interesting ideas.