

Story Structure

My example story structure using the 5Ws and 1H questions.

Who?	Retired professional man – George aged 81 His 40s something daughter Faye
What?	He's looking to move to be near her in Kent. They have just viewed a nice bungalow and have decided to put in an offer
When?	It's a Wednesday afternoon
Where?	Near Folkestone – a terraced tearoom on the cliffs with a view to France *
Why?	George is getting older and needs more support
How?	???????????????

The 5Ws and 1H questions are used by journalists to get to the bare bones of a story. Creative writers need to go further.

We can use three additional questions to developing a story. They are:

- What if?
- What's the worst that could happen?
- What's a possible ending?

Here are mine based on the example story.

What If?	George doesn't won't to move to Kent Faye wants him to go into a care home
Worst happen?	They have a blazing row, and George jumps off the cliff
An ending	In preparing to move, George has been clearing out the house and brings a box full of Faye's school work and pictures he's kept all through the years. It changes her thinking

We then used a framework based on the idea of the 'story mountain' – how the story grows up to the problem and then down the other side to the solution/ending.

Here is the example I used in class based on my story.

Opening	At the café, George at the table, Faye queuing to order, tea and cakes
Build up	We read George's thoughts, he's not entirely happy
Problem	There is a tension in their conversation
Resolution	???????????????
Ending	???????????????