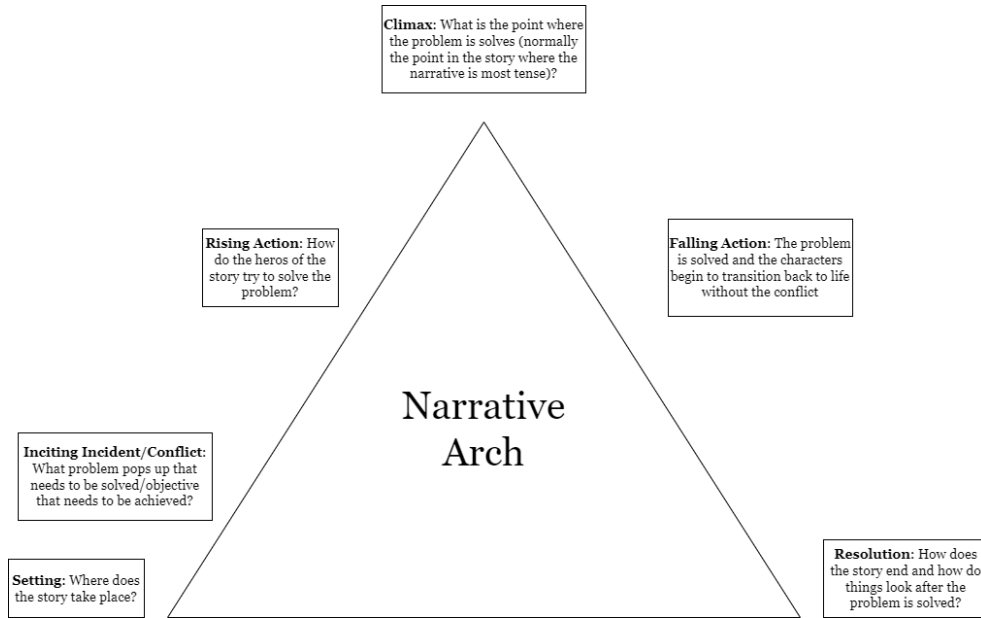


## How to Interpret a Passage

### Interpreting Narratives Breaking Down Narratives



### Practice: Jesus Calming the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

**Setting:**

**Climax:**

**Inciting Incident:**

**Rising Action:**

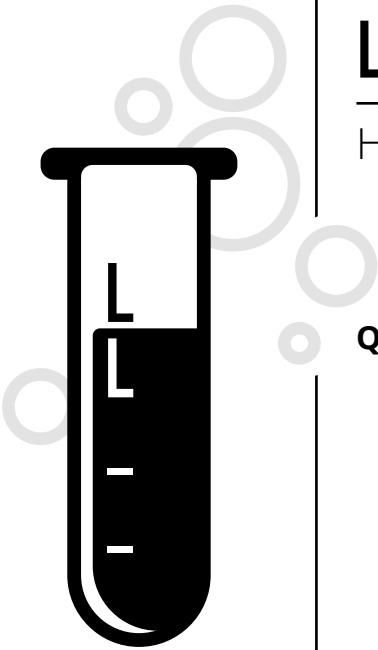
**Resolution:**

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## How to Interpret a Passage

### Questions to Ask of Narratives

1. What is the problem/conflict in the story and how was it solved?
  2. How does the story relate to the broader narrative around it?
  3. Did the main character have a monologue somewhere (especially at the end of the story)?
  4. What do the good guys do? What did the bad guys do?
  5. Does a phrase or idea get repeated throughout the story?
  6. What did God do in the story?
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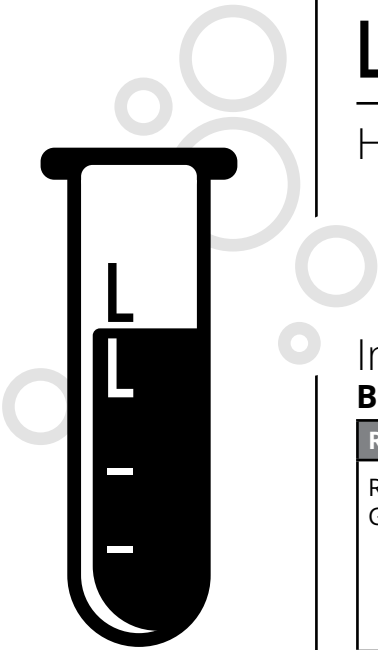


## How to Interpret a Passage

### Interpreting Letters (Epistles)

#### Breaking Down Letters

Relationship	Explanation	Key Words	Example
Reason/ Grounds	An author makes a claim and then explains why that claim is true. Alternatively, the author makes a claim and then tells you what follows from it.	For, Because, Since  Therefore, So, Accordingly, Wherefore, Consequently	<b>James 4:2c-3</b> —You do not have <i>because</i> you do not ask. You ask and do not receive <i>because</i> you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
Result	An author makes a claim and then explains what happens as a result.	So that, That, With the result that,	<b>1 Thess. 1:8</b> —“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, <i>so that</i> we need not say anything.
Purpose	An author makes a claim and then explains what the goal or objective of that claim/action is.	So that, That, Lest, In order that, To the end that	<b>Romans 3:19</b> —Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, <i>so that</i> every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
Condition	The author explains under what conditions another claim is true.	If...(then), Provided that, Except, Unless	<b>2 Cor. 5:17</b> —Therefore, <i>if</i> anyone is in Christ, <i>(then)</i> he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
Concession/ Alternative	The author explains that a certain claim is true in spite of something else being true. Or contrasts one claim with another	Although, Though, Yet, Nevertheless, But, However	<b>Phil. 2:5-6</b> —Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, <i>though</i> he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
Means/ Manner	The author makes a claim then explains how it is accomplished or the way in which it is done.	By, In that, Through  <i>Participles (-ing words)</i>	<b>Eph. 2:8a</b> —For by grace you have been saved <i>through</i> faith.  <b>Matthew 28:19-20</b> —Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, <i>baptizing</i> them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <i>teaching</i> them to observe all that I have commanded you.



## How to Interpret a Passage

### Practice: Galatians 3:10-11

*(circle all the key words you see and write which type of relationship you think they represent)*

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,

“Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book

of the Law, and do them.” 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified be-

fore God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

### Questions to Ask of Letters

1. Which claim is everything else “hanging off of”?
2. Do any key words or ideas get repeated throughout the passage?
3. How does the passage relate to what comes before and after it?