

Exploring Adventure

What Makes an Adventure Story?

An adventure story is written around events involving danger or threat. The story is exciting and keeps the reader in suspense about the outcome until the end. The characters may be in conflict. There are often clues about the coming dangers, and the ways the characters solve the problems throughout the story. In the end, right triumphs over wrong.

Now, let's look at what makes the adventure story in "Riverflow" by Robert Gott.

Action and Suspense

The key to a good adventure story is the action and suspense that is created throughout the story.

When the action begins in "Riverflow", the suspense also begins to build.



... Louisa's instincts told her that this was trouble.

... Louisa called out to Marcus but he kept running.

... She remembered her father had said to look after Marcus and she decided she had no choice. She had to follow him.

Descriptions of the action also create the suspense.

... he was gone from view... Louisa and Declan raced towards the place where they had last seen him.

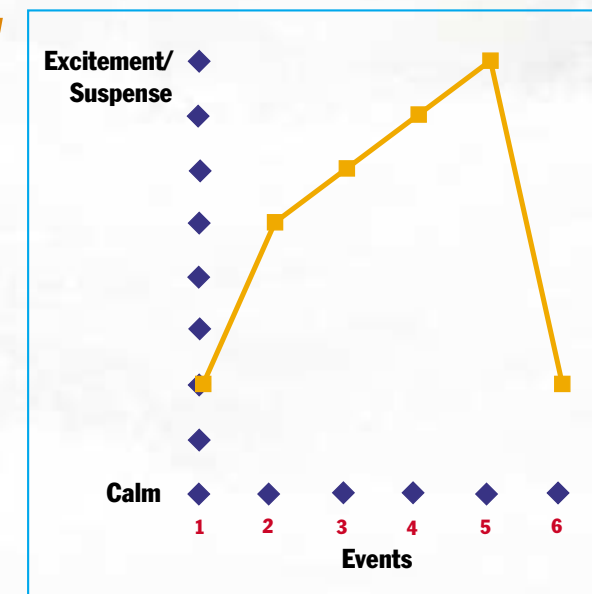
... close to the edge of a raging stream ...a furious torrent...

Plot Profile in "Riverflow"

The plot profile is a way of showing the degree of excitement and suspense that the reader feels throughout the story. It can be plotted on the graph by matching the number of the event and the degree of excitement or suspense felt by the reader. See the graph below.

Events from the Story

- Marcus took his cousins into the woods, beyond the boundary that they had been told not to cross.
- Marcus was well ahead when suddenly he disappeared.
- Marcus had slid down and was standing close to the edge of a raging stream.
- Suddenly, the bank gave way and Marcus slipped into the water.
- Louisa and Declan rescued Marcus.
- Louisa told Marcus off for his recklessness and for endangering their lives. Marcus followed them feeling, for the first time, ashamed.



Conflict

The conflict and tension between the characters in the story also creates suspense and interest in the story. In “Riverflow”, there is conflict between Marcus and the others; Uncle James, Louisa and Declan.

How Is This Conflict Shown?

- The conflict between Uncle James and Marcus.

Marcus, who was crouched behind a tree, could see his Uncle James and he could certainly hear him. But he didn't answer. Marcus hardly ever answered when his name was called.

*“How can one small person be so annoying?”
Uncle James asked.*

- The conflict between Marcus and his cousins.

Both she (Louisa) and Declan had been looking forward to this holiday at their uncle's house. That is until they had been told that Marcus would be joining them.

*Louisa turned on Marcus and told him he was an idiot.
“It was exciting,” he said.*

