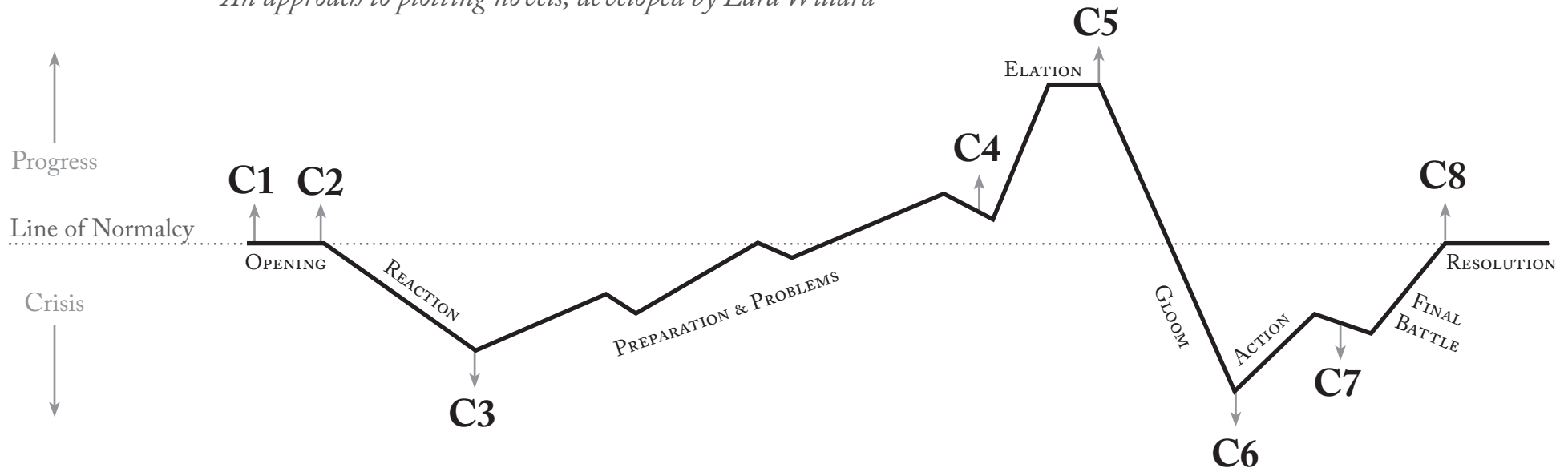


# Plotting with the Eight C's

*An approach to plotting novels, developed by Lara Willard*

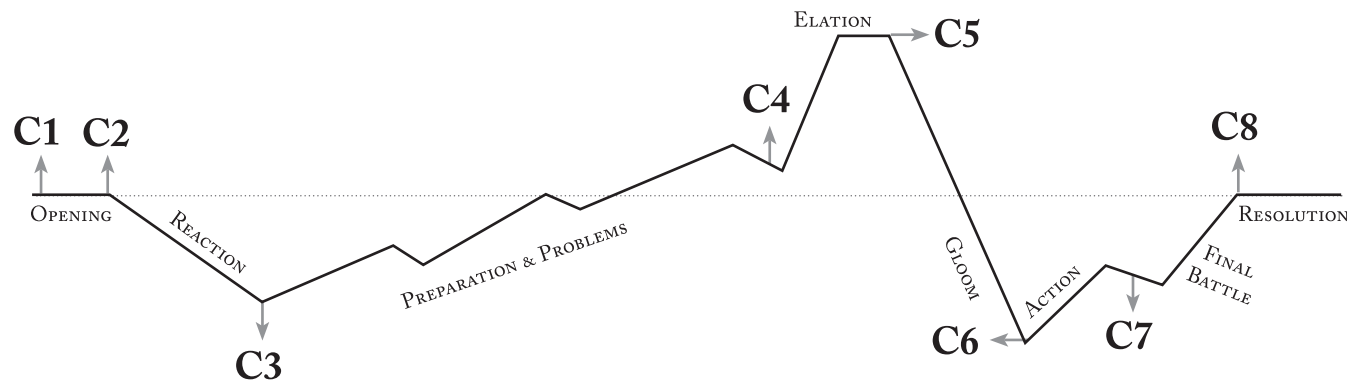


PROLOGUE	Optional content for the story either placed in the first chapter or skipped by the reader in the "Prologue."	PREPARATION	The Hero learns skills and acquires allies and enemies. Several small problems occur and are overcome. This is the longest stretch of the book and may include backstory.	ACTION	The Hero gets up and fights back with new vigor.
<u>CAPTIVATION</u>	Whatever hooks the reader, making him or her want to keep reading. <i>Occurs within first 5 pages.</i>	<u>CONFRONTATION</u>	The Hero succeeds against the Antagonist in a small victory.	<u>CURVEBALL</u>	An unexpected obstacle that the Hero must overcome.
OPENING	Make the Status Quo interesting by giving the Hero rooting interests and an unfulfilled desire.	ELATION	The moment of greatest confidence.	FINAL BATTLE	The climactic scene: a final face-off between the Hero and antagonist.
<u>CHANGE</u>	The inciting incident that starts the story. Life will never be the same. <i>Ends first chapter.</i>	<u>COLLAPSE</u>	The hero receives a near-fatal blow and plunges into...	<u>CULMINATION</u>	The climactic moment. The Hero defeats the antagonist victoriously. (In Tragedy, the Hero dies.)
REACTION	The Hero refuses to act or makes unsuccessful plans.	GLOOM	It can't get any worse than this (though sometimes it does).	RESOLUTION	What happens after the climactic moment; the new normal. (Optional)
<u>COMPLICATION</u>	This forces the hero to act or change plans. <i>Ends Act One.</i>	<u>COMPREHENSION</u>	The awakening. When all hope seems to be lost, the Hero learns new information, regains consciousness, or gets help from someone or -thing. <i>Ends Act Two.</i>	EPILOGUE	Optional, extra information to satisfy curiosity about characters or tie up loose ends. (Optional)

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## 8 C's Plotting Worksheet

- Fill in the spaces below with short, headline versions of your chapters or scenes.
- Include the Hero's superficial and deepest desires, likely fulfilled at CONFRONTATION and CULMINATION, respectively.
- Then use the worksheet to create a one-sentence summary of the novel, perfect for elevator speeches or query letters.



PROLOGUE	PREPARATION	GLOOM	CULMINATION
<u>CAPTIVATION</u>			
OPENING			
	<u>CONFRONTATION</u>		
	ELATION		
REACTION			
	<u>COLLAPSE</u>		
<u>COMPLICATION</u>			

THE HERO'S DESIRES
Superficial: _____
Deepest: _____
ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY
_____
_____
_____