

CLIMAX AND RESOLUTION



DRAMATIC WRITING FOR FILM, TELEVISION, AND THEATRE I

CLIMAX AND RESOLUTION

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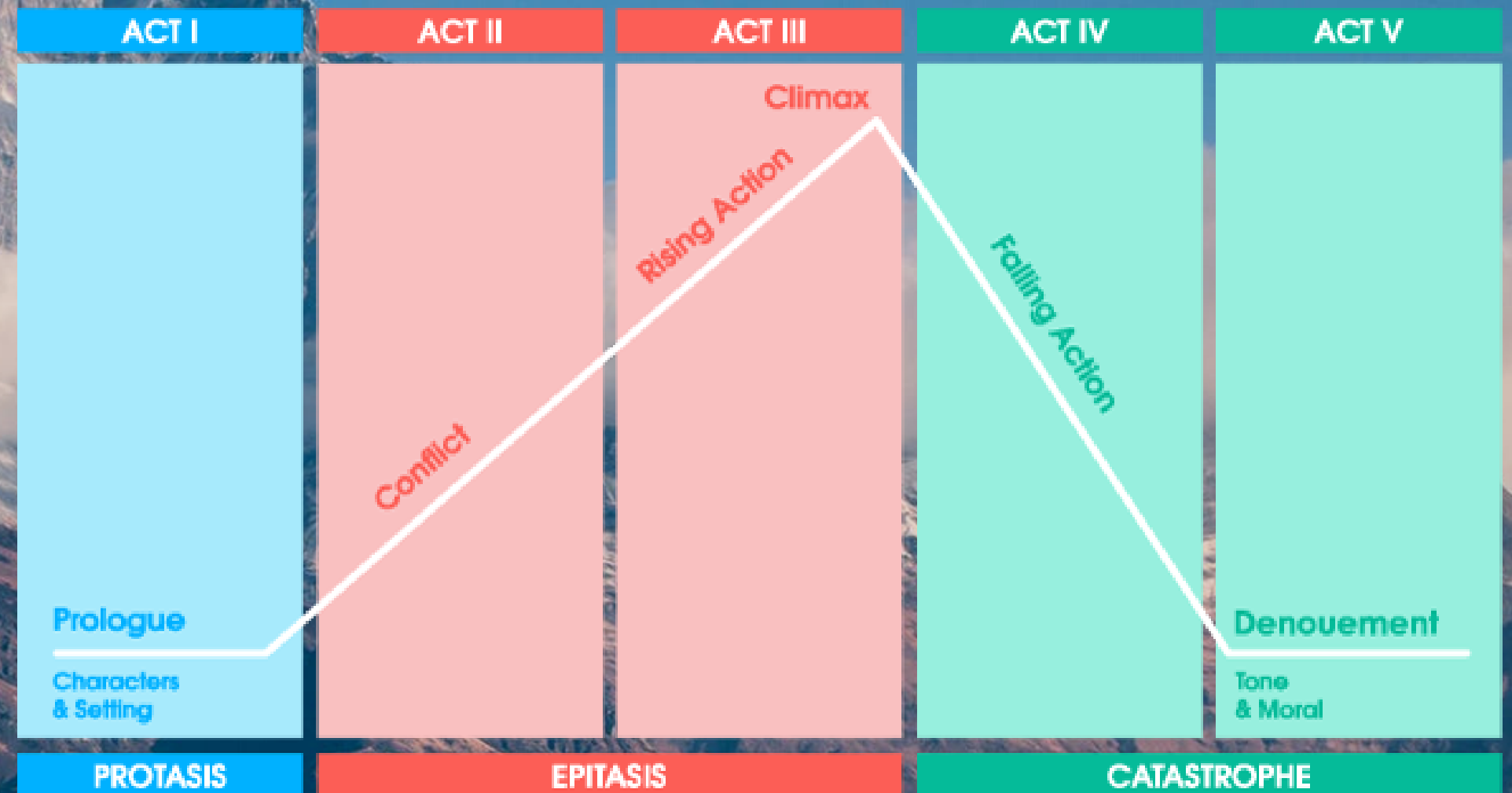
CLIMAX

The fourth of the five-part structure.

This crowning **MAJOR REVERSAL** is not necessarily full of noise and violence.

It **MUST** be full of **MEANING**

MEANING produces **EMOTION**

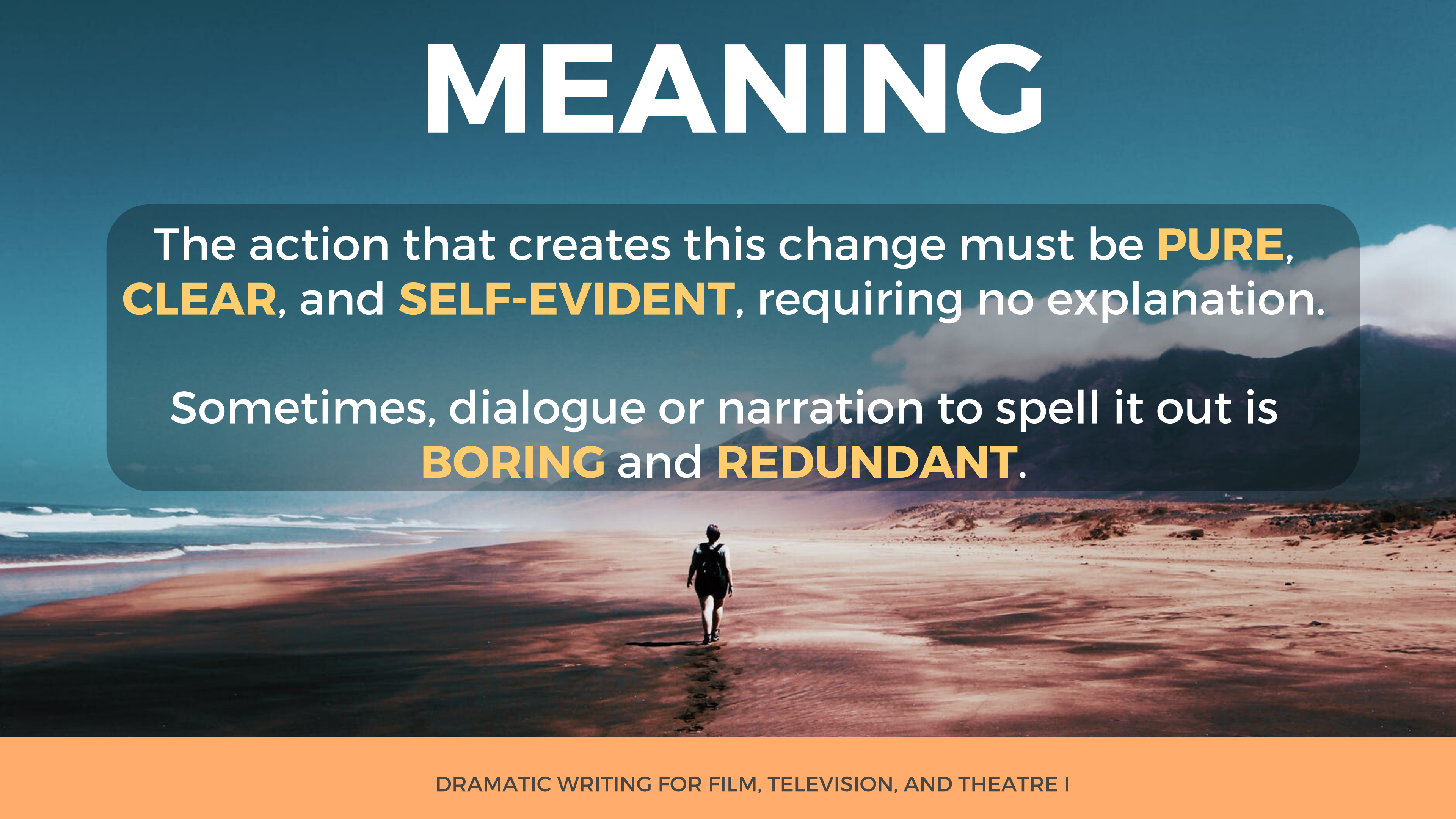


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MEANING

The action that creates this change must be **PURE**, **CLEAR**, and **SELF-EVIDENT**, requiring no explanation.

Sometimes, dialogue or narration to spell it out is **BORING** and **REDUNDANT**.



CLIMAX

FIELD OF DREAMS is about Ray, an Iowa farmer, who decides to build a baseball field after hearing voices that say, “If you build it, he will come.” We discover what the voices are telling Ray at the **CLIMAX** of the story. This scene is the **CLIMAX** because it is the **PINNACLE** of “If you build it, he will come.” It answers who the “he” is.

PLAY

*Click PLAY for YouTube clip

© Tamlin Hall

© Field of Dreams (1989)

A portrait of Michael Hauge, an older man with white hair, a full white beard, and glasses, wearing a blue shirt and a dark jacket. He is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression.

CLIMAX & RESOLUTION

Michael Hauge on **CLIMAX**
and **RESOLUTION**.

PLAY

*Click PLAY for YouTube clip

RESOLUTION

The fifth of the five-part structure.

Any material **AFTER** the **CLIMAX**.

Three possible uses:

1. Tie up any sub plots
2. Show the spread of any climactic event
3. As a courtesy to the audience = a slow curtain

RESOLUTION

"The Final Stage is simply what I call the **AFTERMATH**. It's the before and after picture of the story, with the after being a hero fully in his/her **ESSENCE**, reaping the **REWARDS** of having found the **COURAGE** to complete his/her **CHARACTER ARC**." - © Michael Hauge



RESOLUTION

Andy Tennat's **HITCH** does well tying up **SUB-PLOTS** and providing the audience a "**SLOW CURTAIN**." This film's resolution is a great example of a character "**REAPING** the **REWARDS**" of his **CHARACTER ARC**.

PLAY

*Click PLAY for YouTube clip

© Hitch (2005)

RESOLUTION

The **RESOLUTION** of Disney Pixar's **UP** provides **CLOSURE** for the audience while evoking subtle, yet powerful **EMOTION**.

PLAY

*Click PLAY for youtube clip

© Up (2009)

A top-down view of a desk with a wooden texture. On the desk are several red and blue paper clips, a cup of coffee with a white lid, a spiral-bound notebook, and a laptop with a black Apple logo. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

ASSIGNMENT

Now that you know about **CLIMAX** and **RESOLUTION**, write pages 11-15 of your screenplay using these elements.