

# *X.H. How to Deal with Narrative*

How do I understand stories?



*What Does Rhetorical Analysis  
Do with Narrative?*



# Analyzing Luke 6:6-11

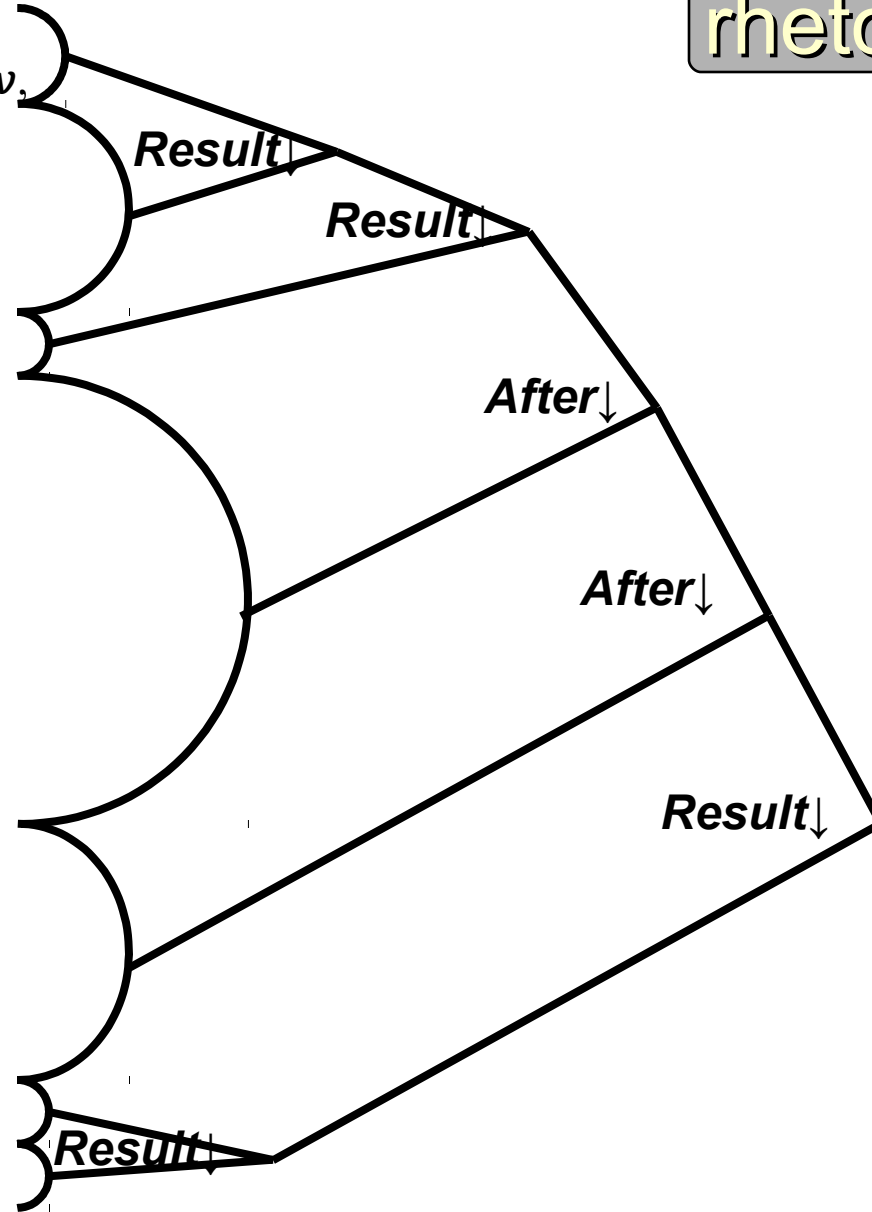
rhetorical?

6.8 αὐτὸς δὲ ἤδει  
 τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν,  
 εἶπεν δὲ τῷ ἀνδρὶ  
 τῷ ξηρὰν ἔχοντι τὴν χεῖρα,  
 Ἔγειρε  
 καὶ στήθι εἰς τὸ μέσον·  
 καὶ ἀναστὰς ἕστη.

6.9 εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
 πρὸς αὐτούς,  
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 ἀγαθοποιῆσαι  
 ἢ κακοποιῆσαι,  
 ψυχὴν σῶσαι  
 ἢ ἀπολέσαι;

6.10 καὶ περιβλεψάμενος  
 πάντας αὐτούς  
 εἶπεν αὐτῷ,  
 Ἐκτεινον τὴν χεῖρά σου.

ὁ δὲ ἐποίησεν,  
 καὶ ἀπεκατεστάθη  
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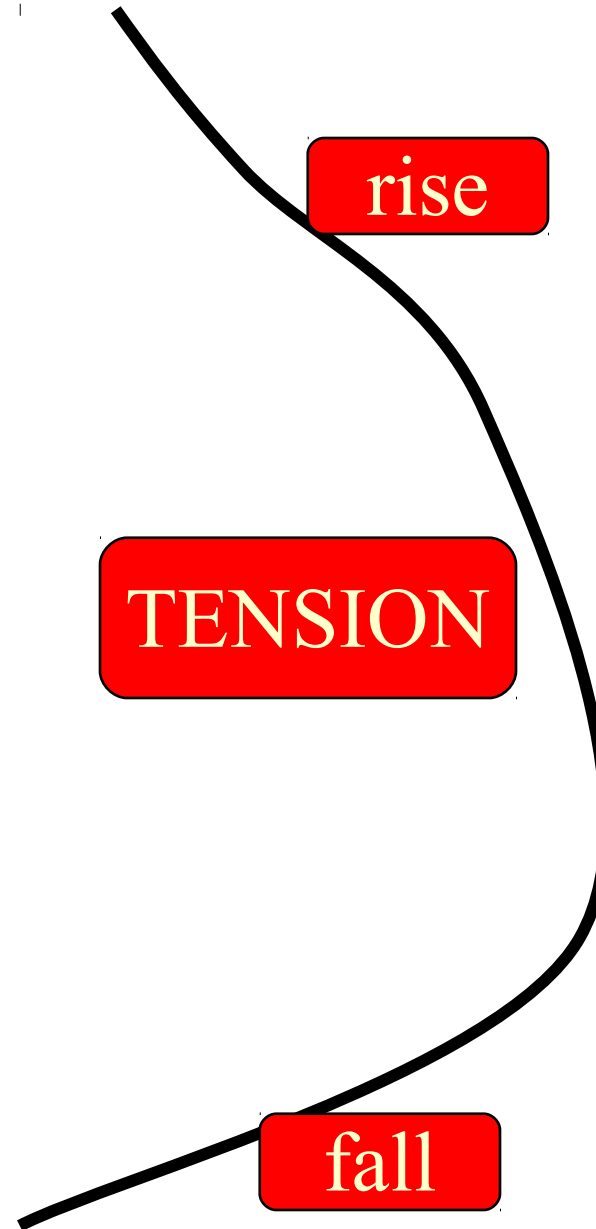
10a.3

rhetorical

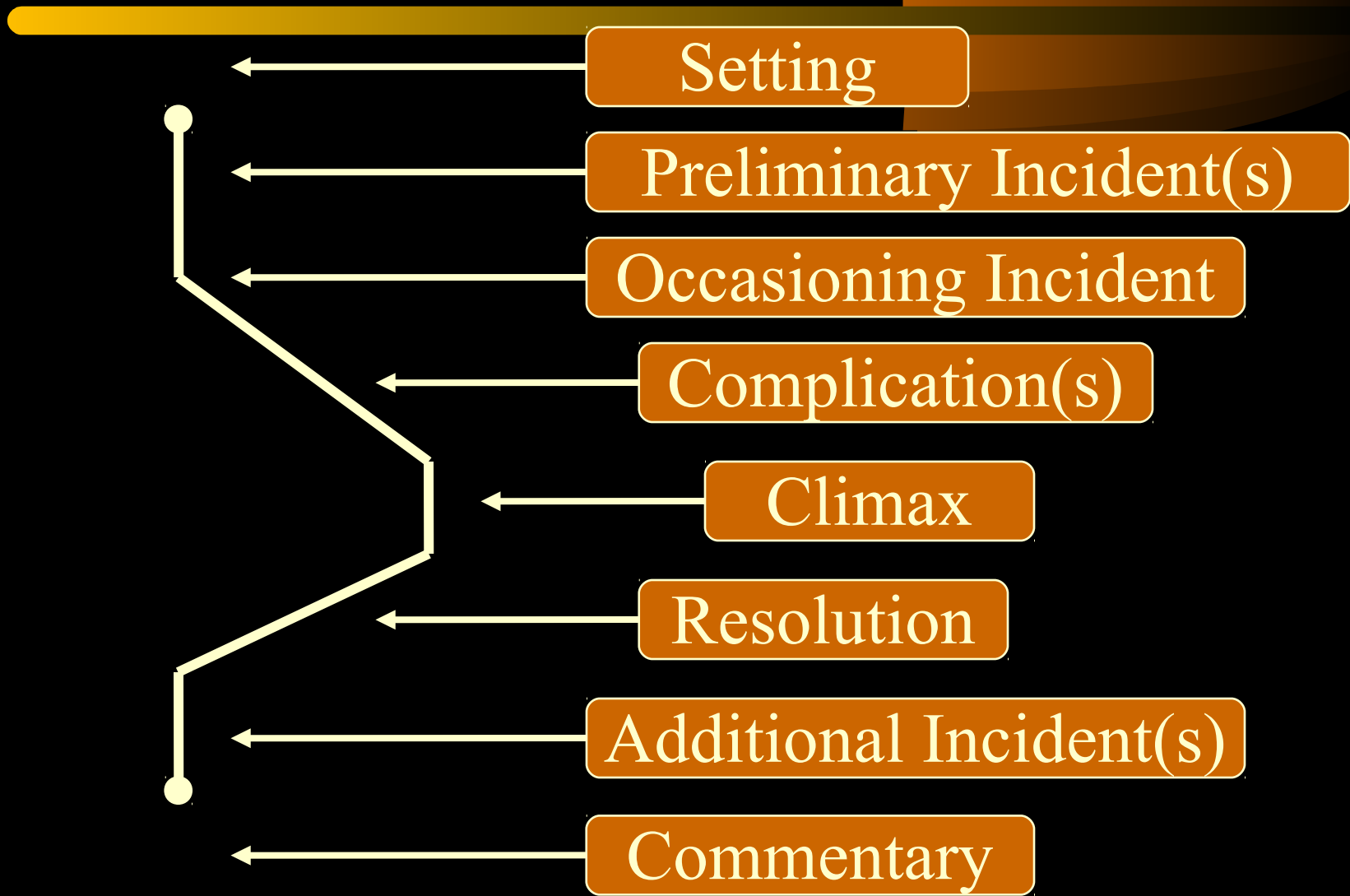
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# *Main Points in Tension*



# Common Rhetorical Subdivisions in a NARRATIVE Episode

10a.4

Vern S. Poythress

The following categories are defined using slightly modified versions of the definitions in John Beekman.

**SETTING.** Setting is composed of statements about static facts, location, time, circumstances, or movement in location. Usually such information comes at the very beginning of a new episode.

**PRELIMINARY INCIDENTS.** Preliminary Incidents are events (not descriptions of static states of affairs) relevant to what follows, but before the problem or tension has been introduced into the episode.

**OCCASIONING INCIDENT.** The Occasioning Incident is the event which introduces notable conflict or tension. In the nature of the case, there is seldom more than one such incident.

**COMPLICATION.** Complication is an event increasing tension, making a solution (apparently) more difficult. There can be more than one paragraph devoted to complications of various kinds. (Unlike the Occasioning Incident, Complication can and often does occur more than once in a single episode.)

**CLIMAX.** Climax is the incident of maximum conflict or tension. It is where, in a melodrama, one would expect the music to play the loudest.

**RESOLUTION.** Resolution is the event or events which solve the problem, release the tension, and unravel the tangles—or at least they contribute toward the solution.

**ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS.** An Additional Incident is a further event that is a consequence of the climax or resolution, but is not a significant part of the climax or resolution itself.

**COMMENTARY.** A Commentary contains the narrator's comments on, evaluation of, or moral for the story. Unlike Additional Incidents, it does not contain events continuing the straight line of the narrative.

# More Narrative Labels

In addition to the above, we often find a second simple pattern, composed of the following two units.

**PROPOSAL.** A description of action commanded, planned, or suggested.

**EXECUTION.** The carrying out of action previously described in a Proposal.

*Doing Rhetorical Analysis of  
Narrative*





## Luke 6:6-11

- 6.6 Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν ἑτέρῳ σαββάτῳ  
 εἰσελθεῖν αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν  
 καὶ διδάσκειν.  
 καὶ ἦν ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖ  
 καὶ ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ ἡ δεξιὰ  
 ἦν ξηρά.
- 6.7 παρετηροῦντο δὲ αὐτὸν  
 οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι  
 εἰ ἐν τῷ σαββάτῳ θεραπεύει,  
 ἵνα εὕρωσιν  
 κατηγορεῖν αὐτοῦ.
- 6.8 αὐτὸς δὲ ἦδει  
 τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν,  
 εἶπεν δὲ τῷ ἀνδρὶ  
 τῷ ξηρὰν ἔχοντι τὴν χεῖρα,  
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- 6.9 εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς πρὸς αὐτούς,  
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 ἀγαθοποιῆσαι  
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- 6.10 καὶ περιβλεψάμενος  
 πάντας αὐτούς  
 εἶπεν αὐτῷ,  
 Ἐκτεινον τὴν χεῖρά σου.  
 ὁ δὲ ἐποίησεν,  
 καὶ ἀπεκατεστάθη  
 ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ.
- 6.11 αὐτοὶ δὲ ἐπλήσθησαν ἀνοίας  
 καὶ διελάλουν πρὸς ἀλλήλους  
 τί ἂν ποιήσαιεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ.

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**And**

Jesus came to the  
synagogue and a  
man there had a  
withered hand

Pharisees  
watched

**Proposal****Execution**

Jesus had the  
man stand

**Complication**

Jesus said it  
is lawful to  
heal

**Complication #2**

Stretch out  
your hand

**Climax****Resolution**

Hand is  
restored

**Additional Incident**

They were furious  
and plotted

**Setting****Occasioning Incident**

Jesus heals a  
man with a  
withered hand,  
contradicting the  
Pharisees'   
conception of  
lawfulness

# *Steps in Analyzing Narrative*



- Pick a single chunk.
  - Unit with narrative unity.
- Break up into individual events.
  - Propositions or small clusters of propositions.
- Unite into groups with single actor.
- Determine climax and resolution.
  - Label with tree branches.
- Work back to determine other key events.
  - Complete the tree.

# *Plot and Character*



- Tension goes with plot.
- Watch character as well.
- Characters play various roles.
  - Maybe more than one role at different times.
  - Interact with people in other roles.
- Characters develop.
  - Maturing or degenerating.
  - Reader grows in perception of character.

# *Redemptive Plots*



- The heart of redemption lies in Christ
- Miniredemptions: redemptive plots
- Plots as types
  - Typology should include plot typology
  - as well as things, institutions, and events

# *Antiredemptive Plots*



- Curse is antiredemption
- Adam's fall is the pattern
- The curse on Christ (crucifixion)
- Hell
- Miniantiredemptive plots