

# Worksheet 2

## The Distinction Between Plot And Story

**Narrative research** - before attempting to analyse any areas of narrative read worksheets on Five Major Plot Points, Plot and Narrative Explanation and Three Act Structure.

Put simply – **story** is what happens:

- Jack and Jill went up the hill
- To fetch a pail of water .
- Jack fell down and broke his crown,
- And Jill came tumbling after

### **Story is descriptive**

This happens, then that, then something else.

### **Plot is analytical**

Working why something happens and who or what is responsible: Why did Jack and Jill need to go up the hill? Did Jack fall or was he pushed? If he was pushed, who by – Jill or somebody / something else?

Teasing out answers to this is the business of plot – working out what the motivations of the characters were.

In the notes above, you have summarised the story, now work out the plot – consider what happened? To whom? When? How? Why?

How did one event cause another? Note down your ideas. When you have completed, compare with other students – where do your answers agree and differ? Why do you think there might be differences between your answers?