## Exercise Six – The Plot Machine

To make plotting your story as painless as possible, we've created the Plot Machine. This machine runs on post it notes, or pieces of paper. Write each major event in your book on a post it note and arrange the notes along the plot machine to your liking. (this can be done on a whiteboard or even a wall, whichever works best for you).

In this exercise, start by placing the post it's containing your beginning, climax, and ending events, but after that it's up to you. You can even work backward, start at the beginning and post chronologically or stick post it's on the board or wall randomly with your eyes closed.

TIP: Not all plots follow this formula. Some begin with the climax or work backwards from the resolution to the beginning. Experiment with the plot you just created by thinking beyond the traditional structure.

The following diagram is how you could set this up on a whiteboard or again using a blank wall.
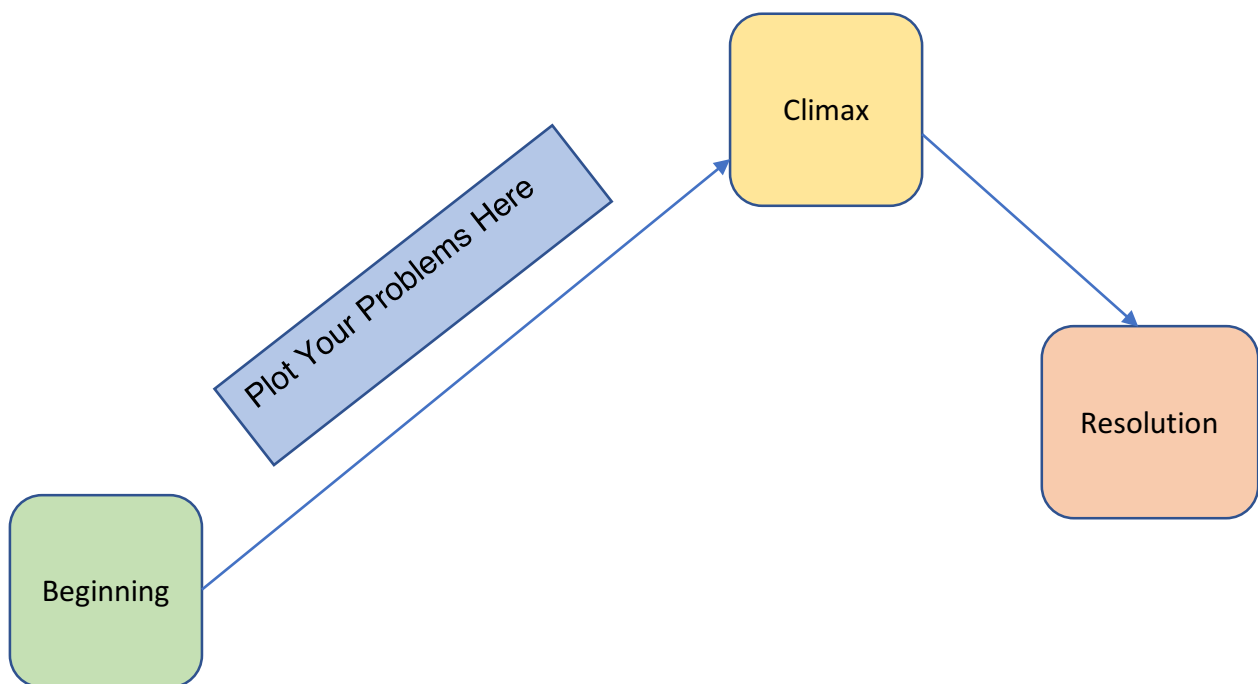
NEXT STEP:

You have the events of your plot; it's time to get organised. Though you may know what will happen in your plot, you may not know when each thing will happen. The following exercise is a timeline that will help you arrange the events from the Plot Machine in order and within the time frame you'll be writing about them in.