Template – Children Three-Act Story Plot

*The three-act structure is a classic method of storytelling with clear beginning, middle, and ending phases. The second act is typically much longer than the others, and can be treated as two sections divided by a climactic midpoint.*

*This template covers the basics, but feel free to add as many details as you wish.*

ACT I : THE BEGINNING

**Opening Scene**

*Sets the tone for the story and introduces the protagonist.*

**Setup**

*Scenes that introduce the characters’ world, introduce supporting characters, and point to changes to come.*

**Inciting Incident**

*The surprise moment that turns the protagonist’s world upside down and kicks off the main plot.*

**Call to Action**

*How do the characters react to the inciting incident? What choice must the protagonist make?*

ACT II, PART 1 : THE MIDDLE

**The Choice**

*How does the protagonist decide to deal with the problem? What are the stakes?*

**Rising Action / Mounting Problems**

*Troubles mount as the conflict kicks into high gear. What keeps the protagonist going?*

**Midpoint / Reversal**

*A surprise event that wrecks the protagonist's plan and raises the stakes, often after a temporary triumph.*

ACT II, PART 2 : AFTER THE MIDPOINT

**More Troubles**

*There is fallout from the midpoint, continuing the conflict as problems pile up.*

**Disaster**

*A moment when everything goes wrong and the goal appears impossible. The protagonist’s darkest hour begins.*

**Turning Point**

*New ideas or fresh inspiration offer hope and set up the story’s final act.*

ACT III : RESOLUTION

**Plan / Resolve**

*All the pieces are moved into place for a final climax or showdown. Subplots tie together and the stakes are raised to a peak.*

**Climax**

*The protagonist comes face to face with the antagonist or main obstacle and is victorious… or fails.*

**Denouement**

*After the climax, the protagonist and/or world have changed. A final scene provides closure to the story*