



## {Resilience}

Maddie shows resilience because she never gives up or loses sight of her goal, even though terrible things keep happening to her.

When Maddie was in first grade, her dad died in the line of duty. Her

mom became an alcoholic and

Maddie started having panic attacks in the city, so they moved to the suburbs. Maddie made a few friends - her best friend is Stubs - and did very well in school. Her mom was slipping deeper and

## {Quote Analysis}

*"I sat feeling hopeless on a park bench for a long time, all the hope draining out of me like a slow, painful leak" (194).*



deeper into depression and alcoholism, so Maddie had to read stranger's death dates to make money to support her and her mom. Even though she has this stress - and the stress of seeing when everyone dies - she stays focused on doing well in school so she can go to Cornell for college.

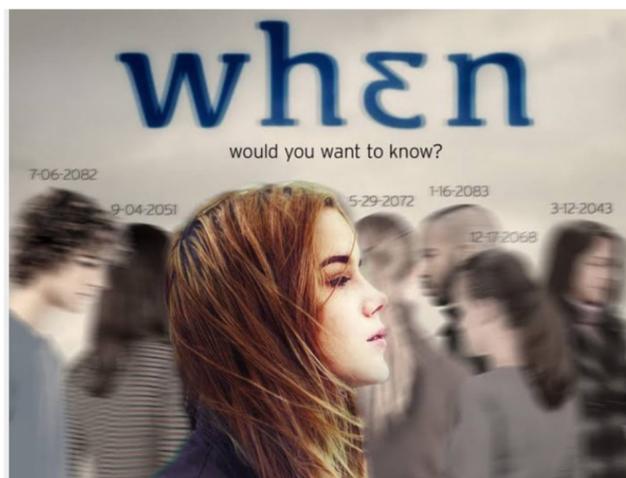
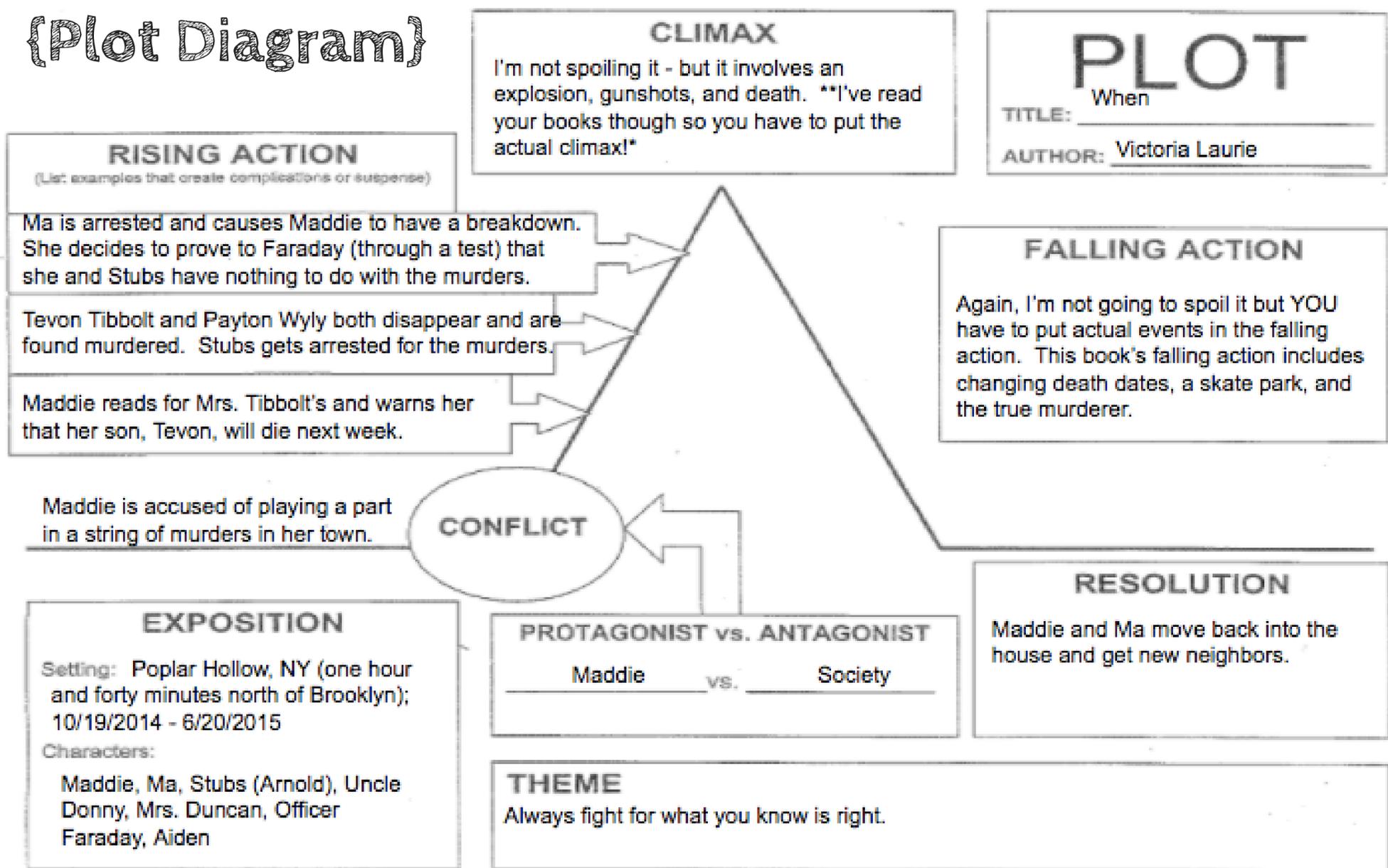
## {CHARACTERIZATION}

Mrs. Duncan is Maddie's next door neighbor. "She's a sweet old lady who likes to redecorate her house every other month just for something to do and someone to talk to" (6). She is very kind and caring and wants to help Maddie and her mom.

Mrs. Duncan definitely senses that Maddie is the one taking care of everything in the house, so she tries to help by offering food or company. Maddie usually turns down her offers, but as Mrs. Duncan continues to come through for Maddie and her mom, she and Maddie grow closer. When Ma is in jail and Uncle Donny has to go back to the city, Mrs. Duncan is the one who offers to take care of Maddie. "I could look in on her," she said. "I live right next door and could easily make sure Maddie's getting enough to eat and being taken care of" (204). By the end of the book, Maddie and Mrs. Duncan act more like family than neighbors.



# {Plot Diagram}



## {Summary}

Maddie Flynn is a shy sixteen year old girl, cursed with the ability to see small, black numbers floating on everyone's forehead. It isn't until after her father's death that her mother realized these numbers are actually death dates. Maddie can see when everyone is going to die, she just doesn't know anything past that. After her mom becomes an alcoholic and loses her job, Maddie is forced to read for strangers. When she warns a customer that her son is going to die the next week, the woman becomes very upset and leaves in a rush. The boy goes missing on that exact day, and Maddie becomes the target of the FBI's investigation. Maddie and her best friend Stubs try to prove their innocence as more young people disappear and are murdered...and more evidence points to them. Despite many obstacles and wrong turns, Maddie never gives up hope that she and Stubs will walk free and help catch the killer on the loose.