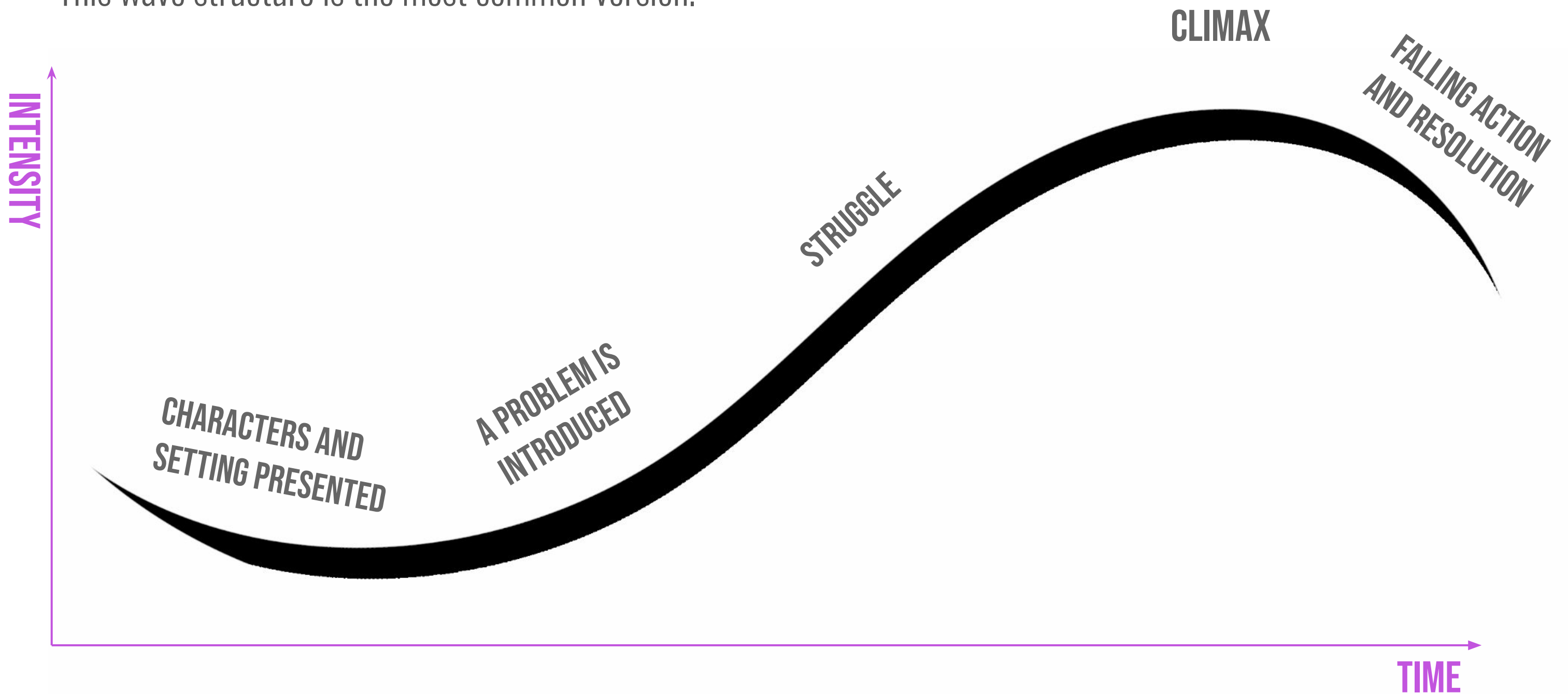


STORY ARC



STORY ARC

Stories can be drawn as arcs showing its structure. This wave structure is the most common version.



STORY ARC: EXPLANATION

What is a story arc?

A story arc is a way to show the intensity or mood of a story in the form of a diagram. The story arc on the previous slide is probably the dominant narrative structure today. However, there are alternative story arcs, some of which we have separate maps for.

Exposition: Characters & setting presented

The story usually starts by presenting the main character or characters, as well as the setting. It tries to get you to feel for the main protagonist(s) and understand their motives.

A problem is introduced

Early in the story, a central conflict or problem is presented. This problem and how the protagonist deals with it is the main plot of the story.

Struggle & rising action

The protagonist struggles to solve the problem. As the story progresses, the struggle intensifies.

Climax

When the story is at maximum intensity. This is the moment when everything feels hopeless - the murderer has captured the protagonist, the boyfriend wants to break up, or the enemy seems to be winning the war - usually followed by the protagonist overcoming the problem and resolving the conflict.

Falling action & resolution

The end of the story, where any loose ends are tied up. Usually, this is just a single chapter of a book or a few minutes of the movie.