"Classical" story structure

Aristotle (~350 B.C.) (Poetics)

plot point 2:
Things change;
conflicts(s) resolved

plot point 1:
Things change;
situation cannot continue as is

tension ->

time ->

Goal

Counter-force

Exposition (Set up)
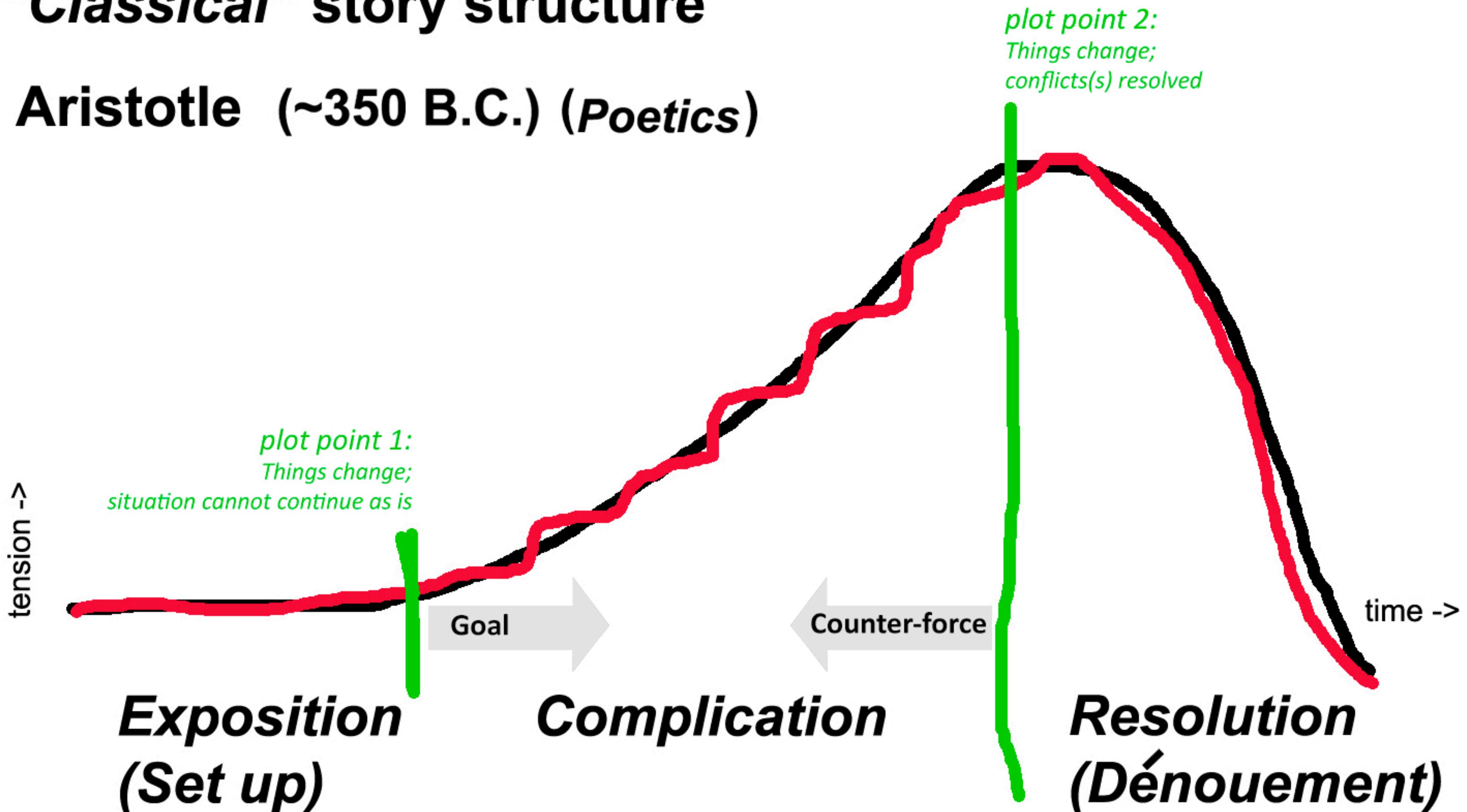
introduce:
* main characters
* setting (milieu)
* conflict(s)

Complication

* a sequence of conflict situations
* the tension mounts with each
* conflict become more difficult/intense

Resolution (Dénouement)

* confict resolved
* tensions released
* story wraps up