These activities are designed to help students to understand and identify the key structural components for a short story. Some technical words are glossed, if needed.

There is a two page extract to read and this can be approached as a class, in groups or individually, depending on the ability of the group.

This task focuses on a short story called 'Broken Homes' by William Trevor. You may wish to look up more of his work to extend your teaching of short stories.

Screen 1

Their graph should be labelled as follows:
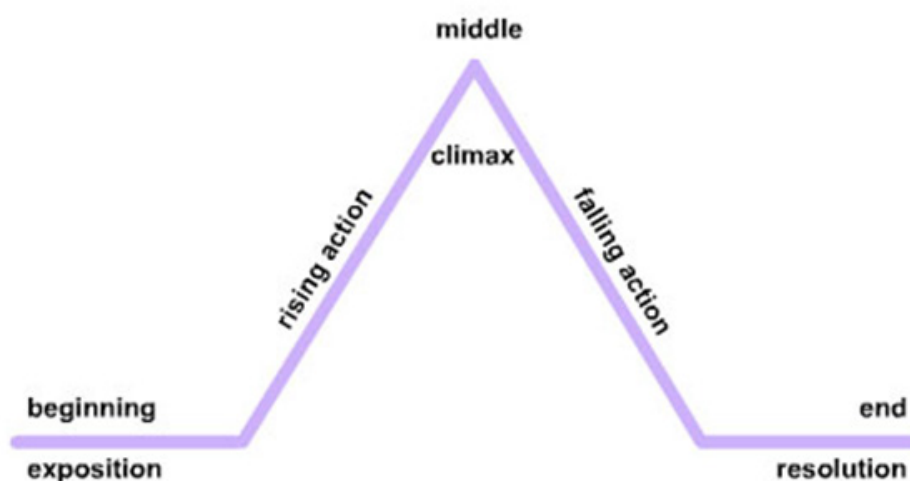
Screen 2

The students should order the story as follows:

exposition/beginning	It is the day of the GCSE English exam and Nancy is very nervous.
rising action	She wakes up late because her alarm hadn't gone off.
climax	She takes too long getting ready and putting on her make-up so she misses her bus and there isn't another one for 20min.
falling action	She just makes it to the exam on time and scribbles down a story about a girl missing her bus and being late for an exam.
denouement/resolution	On results day she has just about scraped a Level 5, by only one mark. Her parents will be pleased.

Screen 3

There should be some discussion surrounding where to put the labels as it isn't always black and white. Encourage the students to give their opinions and argue their case for putting the labels where they wish.

One acceptable response might be:

exposition/beginning	**Lines 1 – 13** From: "We're trying to help kids from broken homes," To: "There's no charge of any kind whatsoever."
rising action	**Lines 14 – 40** From: "It's just that I wondered," To: "helping children from broken homes."
climax	**Lines 41 – 48** From: "Hi," a boy with long blond hair said to her on Tuesday. To: "which was a task she found difficult herself."
falling action	**Lines 49 – 80** From: "They'd do whatever she wanted." To: "She pushed open the door gingerly."

Screen 4

Students need to consider what they have read so far and try to write a sensible ending that fits the rest of the narrative.

To prompt them, you could discuss how some stories end happily and others don't. Some have a twist even.

Screen 5

There should be some discussion around whether they enjoyed the ending and how successful or unsuccessful they thought it was.