Task for *Evil Genius*

Visualising the plot

What do writers say about plot?

In constructing the plot… the poet should place the scene, as far as possible, before his eyes. In this way, seeing everything with the utmost vividness, as if he were a spectator of the action, he will discover what is in keeping with it, and be most unlikely to overlook inconsistencies. – Aristotle

A story to me means a plot where there is some surprise. Because that is how life is – full of surprises. – Isaac Bashevis Singer

A plot is nothing but a normal human situation that keeps arising again and again…normal human emotions — envy, ambition, rivalry, love, hate, greed, and so on. – Louis L'Amour

You can't build a plot out of jokes. You need tragic relief. And you need to let people know that when a lot of frightened people are running around with edged weaponry, there are deaths. Stupid deaths, usually. Not letting this happen would be a betrayal. – Terry Pratchett

Plot is what happens in your story. Every story needs structure, just as everybody needs a skeleton. It is how you 'flesh out and clothe' your structure that makes each story unique. – Caroline Lawrence

[For more examples, go to the Brainy Quote website:](#)

1. Choose one of the quotes above and explain how it can be applied to the plot structure of *Evil Genius*.

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2. Find a quote that you feel adequately defines the importance of plot.

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Famous authors and plots

Go to this article in the *Daily Mail* and look at how famous authors William Faulkner and J. K. Rowling work out their plots and discuss different tactics for charting the basic elements of a narrative. Ask students to predict how they might plot a narrative according to a particular learning style. (visual, logical, verbal, etc.)

Ask students to plot the structure of *Evil Genius*. Here are a few options that take into account student learning ability as well internet ability and/or access:

Plotting the structure

- Issue the Plot Structure Chart as a handout worksheet (lower to mid ability). This works best as a whole-class task with ongoing discussion during lesson time.
- Students create their own chart in a Word chart (mid to high ability). Select this application in the Insert function in Word and students can evaluate the best style for their needs. This function uses Excel charts to compile figures so it also appeals to students who like to use their numeracy skills. Students will need to plan how they need to structure their charts to reflect the information they need to include. The line and scatter charts seem to be the most popular for this activity. (Suitable for a homework task.)
- Students create their own chart at Online Chart Tool (mid to high ability). This function appeals to design and some numeracy skills and requires reliable internet access, so is more directed to the BYOD classroom. There are a few designs and the tool is accessible and fairly easy to use. This also requires students to email their finished charts, save to documents etc. so is good for general ICT skills.