

Sections of the novel

The following are the sections, or parts, of the novel:

Prologue
Three years later
The Turning
The Picnic
Breakdown
The Split
The Trial
The Way It Is
The Hostage
The Confession
Decisions
Losing My Religion
Birth Announcements

1. If you have not yet read the book, consider what you think may happen in each section. Write out a sentence for each title, remembering that stories usually have the following elements: opening; setting; fiction trigger; development (keeping up the momentum); climax; conclusion (resolution).
2. If you have already read all, or part, of the novel try to summarise what happens in each section of the novel in just one or two sentences. Then try to categorise the sections in to the elements of a story: opening; setting; fiction trigger; development (keeping up the momentum); climax; conclusion (resolution). Do you think Malorie Blackman has followed the traditional format of a story? If so, explain your ideas and select evidence. If you don't think she has followed the traditional format explain why you don't think so and give examples where her story does not follow the usual template.
3. Why do you think Blackman included these sub-sections to her novel when she also has chapter numbers?
4. Whether or not you have yet read the novel, add an extra section to the novel: the epilogue; this is where an author tells the reader what happened later in the lives of those involved in the story. What do you think will happen? Summarise your ideas into a paragraph.