

## Putting the Story in History

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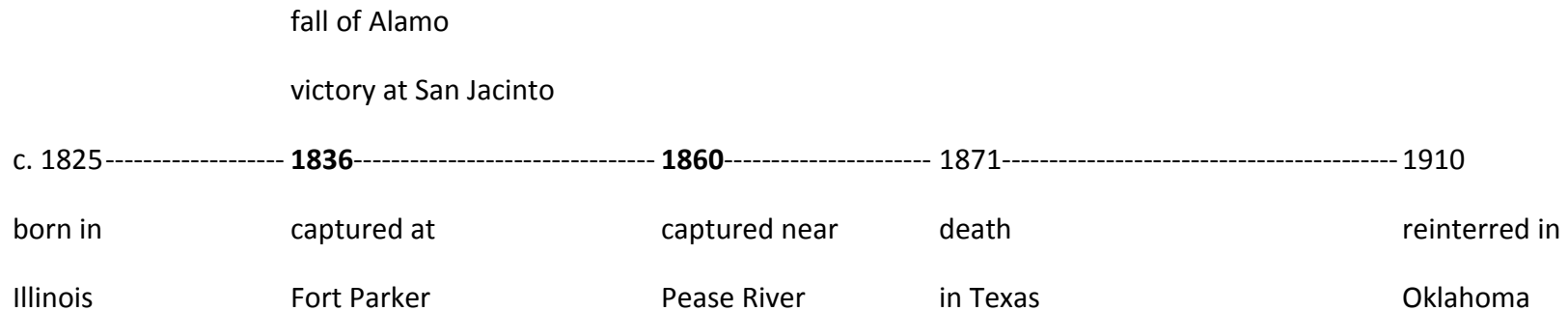
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### FINDING THE PULL-DOWN MOMENTS

“The White Comanche of the Plains” (Cynthia Ann Parker)



The timeline provides information; the pull-down moments provide the narrative. Then the narrative essentials take over:

- Plot/Theme
- Conflict

- Characters
- Setting
- Point of View
- Language
- Tone

Think in terms of the “nonfiction novel”: **Nonfiction novel**, story of actual people and actual events told with the dramatic techniques of a **novel**. The American writer Truman Capote claimed to have invented this genre with his book *In Cold Blood* (1965).

Only we’re talking about a “nonfiction *story*,” and it’s pretty certain that storytellers have been telling about actual events with “dramatic techniques” since well before 1965!

Some things to consider:

- What is the conflict?
- What descriptive details (sensory impressions) enable a listener to “see” (or hear, smell, taste, feel)?
- What is the “truth”? What needs to be qualified?
- Is it okay to speculate about dialogue, feelings, etc.?
- Which is the better choice – first person or third person point of view?
- After all your research, what do you leave out?
- How do you start, and how do you end?
- Is there a “pattern” for developing the middle?
- Are there connections (literary, regional, etc.) that can be made?

***THANKS FOR COMING, AND TELL ON!***