

# *My Community 2020*

## *Module 1*

### *Unit 1*

# *Telling stories : What is storytelling?*

pistes  solidaires



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# THE ART OF STORYTELLING

Storytelling is an ancient art form  
and a valuable form of human  
expression.

WHERE WHEN  
PEOPLE FACTS  
THINGS EMOTIONS



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# THE ART OF STORYTELLING

In any telling, there are 6 specific elements that exist :

1. The representation of the story
2. Interaction
3. verbal or semiotic language
4. « showing » the story
5. usage of actions such as vocalisation, physical movement and/or gesture
6. active imagination of the listeners



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# 1. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE STORY

Storytelling always involves the presentation of a narrative path, the **story**.

Between the beginning and end of a story, many things will happen.

Stories must be a chain of **cause-and-effect beats**: each scene must lead into what happens next and not be a standalone episode (Aristotle, *Poetics*)

CAUSE

Why it happened ?



EFFECT

What happened

By the end, it arrives at a target destination, fulfilling its reason for having been told.



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## THE STANDARD 3 ACT STRUCTURE

The traditional three-act structure includes the following parts:

**Act I - Setup:** Exposition, Inciting Incident, Plot Point One

**Act II - Confrontation:** Rising Action, Midpoint, Plot Point Two

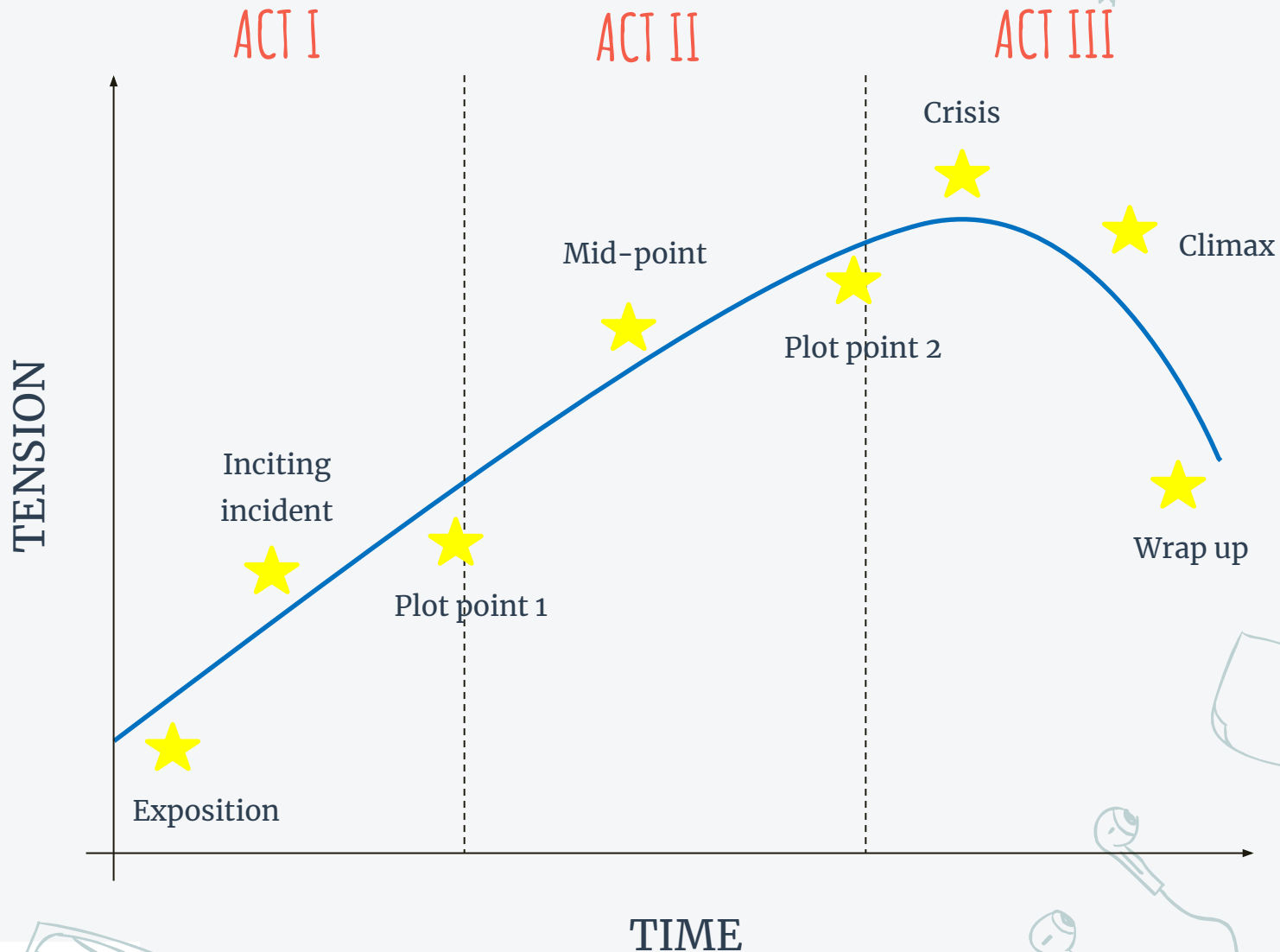
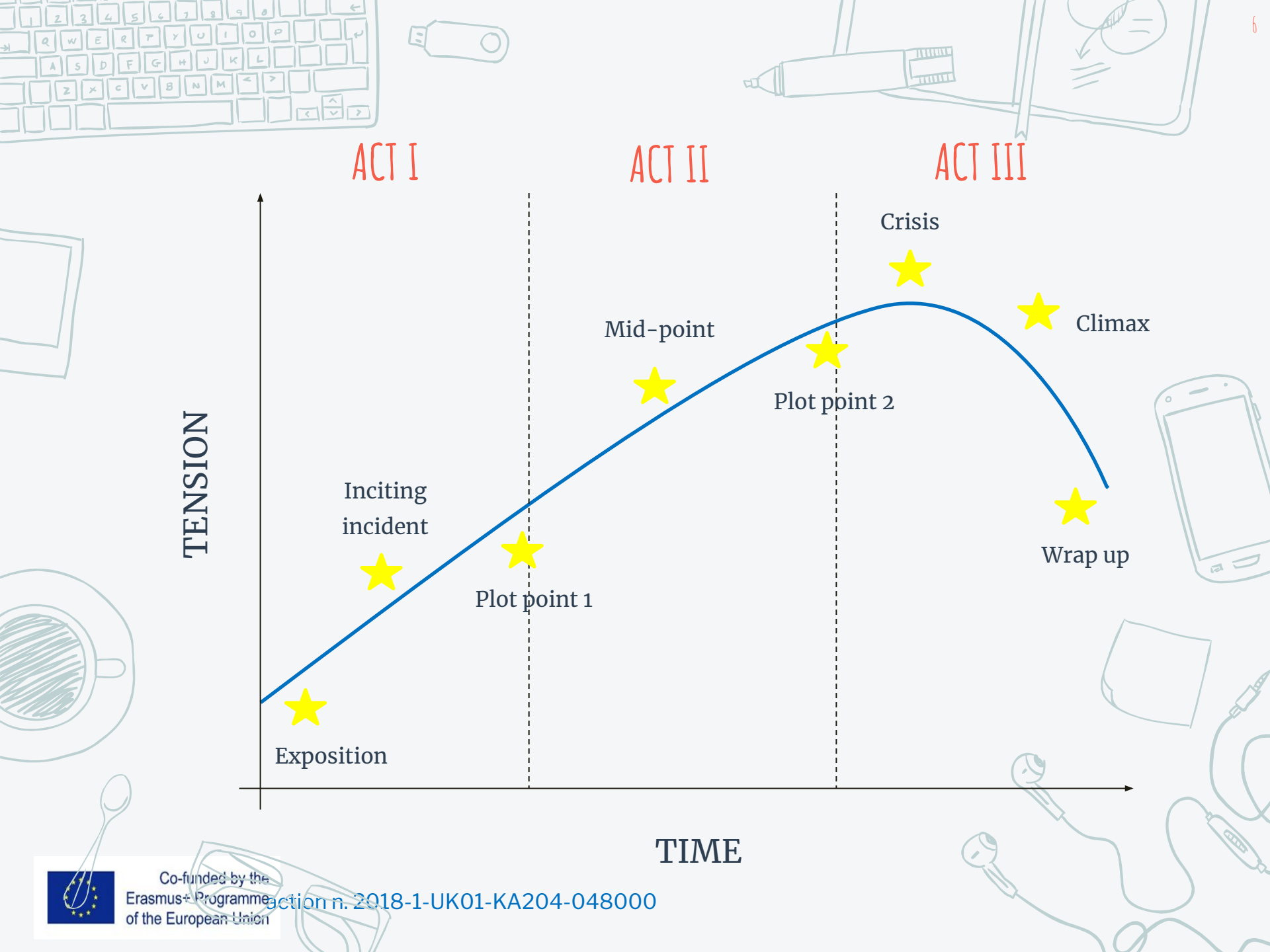
**Act III - Resolution:** Pre Climax, Climax, Denouement

Within each Act is a number of different “**BEATS**” — a plot event.



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## 2. STORYTELLING IS INTERACTIVE

Storytelling involves an interaction between the **STORYTELLER** and one or more **LISTENERS**.



The interactive aspect of storytelling allows for a great impact, a great sense of living in the present moment and **sharing** the same common knowledge regarding the story.



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### 3. STORYTELLING USES VERBAL LANGUAGE

Verbal communication refers to our use of **WORDS**.

« The very ugly bug **screamed** as the bird swooped closer. »

« **Argh** – screamed the very ugly bug as ... »

The narrator can decide to use **rhetorical figures of sound** (alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia) in order to communicate a particular emotional charge that increases the sense of the message.



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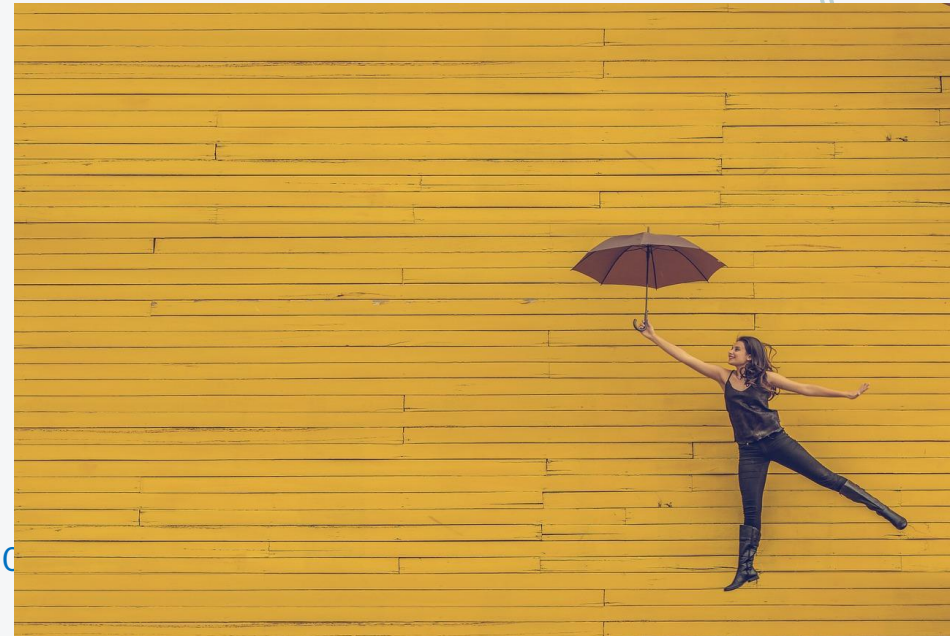
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## 4. STORYTELLING USES NON-VERBAL LANGUAGE

- a/ Actions, physical movement and/or gesture
- b/ Voice : for producing sound effects, deep voice, etc
- c/ Personality of the storyteller
- d/ Environnement
- e/ Music



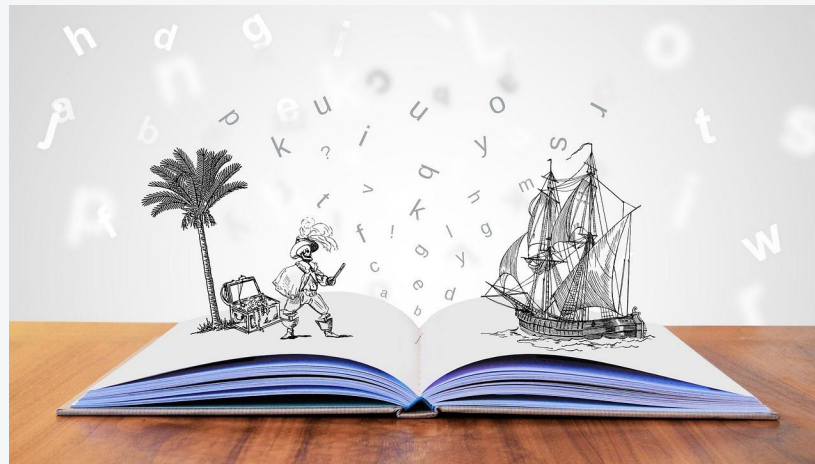
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## 5. "SHOWING" THE STORY

Should we say how to 'see' stories?

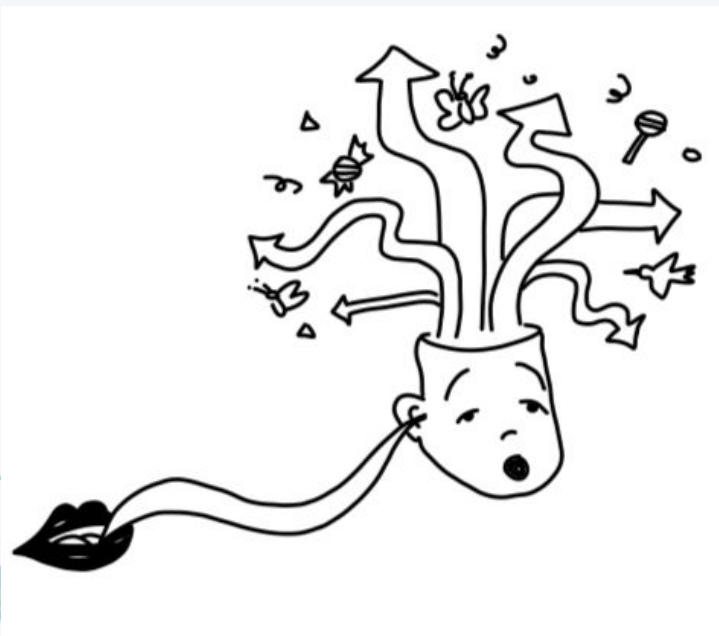
Both teller and listeners must share the moment as both create the details, by their own perceptions, **in their own minds**, therefore each one is recreating the story being told.



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## 6. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVE IMAGINATION OF THE LISTENERS



Storytelling promotes the active imagination of the listener(s).

The completed story happens in the mind of the listener(s), creating a unique story.

LISTENER(S)



CO-CREATOR(S)



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*“A well told story works for any audience regardless of size, age, experience.”*

*Unknown Wiseman*



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MY  
COMMUNITY  
2020

ANY GOOD STORY SHOULD BE ...

SIMPLE

suitable language  
turning points chronology

EMOTIONAL

personal experience  
humour, pain/fear or joy

TRUTHFUL

the storyteller  
believes in what  
s.he tells



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# TO BE A GOOD STORYTELLER...

...one should be able to understand the key elements of the story to be told

SETTING

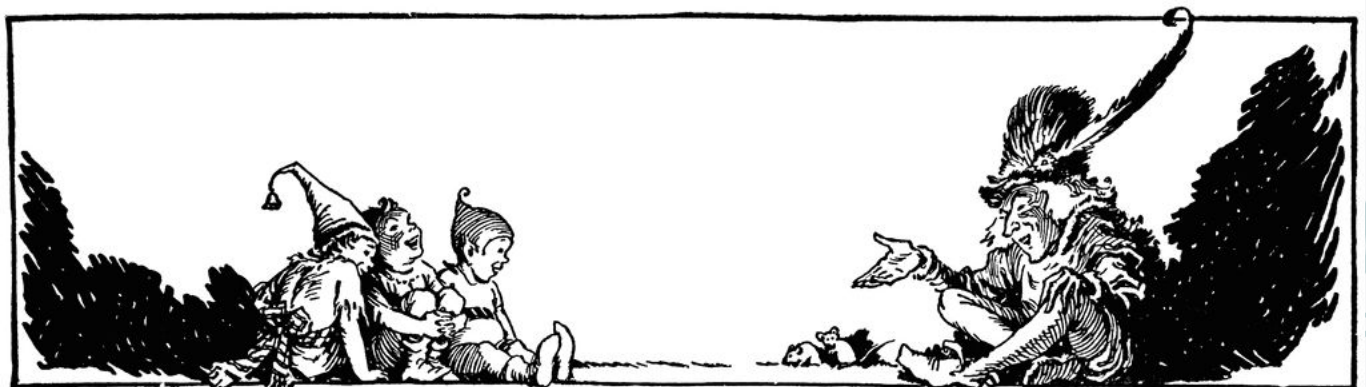
CHARACTERS

POINT OF VIEW

SYMBOLISM

THEME

CONFLICTS



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BEFORE NEXT UNIT,  
ANY QUESTIONS ?



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