How to Find the Climax Terms like “most intense moment,” “turning point,” “aha moment,” and “peak in action” are often used to describe the climax in a given piece of fiction. These catchy phrases work well as tools to help us remember climax if we’ve already learned how to identify it. If you haven’t learned how to identify it, then these phrases are of very little use to us.

1. Identify the conflict: Look for hints of the conflict in the exposition of the story.
2. Ask a question. Once we identify the conflict, a question usually forms in our minds. This question is directly connected to the problem the main character trying to solve and/or to the two forces set in opposition. It is this question that we, and the main character(s), are trying answer.
3. Track conflict in the rising action. In the rising action the suspense builds as the protagonist gets closer and closer to finding out the answer to his question. The Free Dictionary defines suspense as the “state or quality of being undecided, uncertain, or doubtful” and "pleasurable excitement and anticipation regarding an outcome.” It is this uncertainty and excitement that builds through a series of events and actions that constitutes the rising action.
4. Climax. The climax occurs when we’re about to get the answer to the big question asked in the inciting incident. If the question has been answered, then you’ve already passed the climax. Back up. Other signs you’ve just passed the climax:
* The central conflict has been resolved.
* A sense of relief if felt among the characters and in the reader
* Character changes in action or thought, for better or worse.