

# Sawbones (2013), by Catherine Johnson



## Social/Historical Context

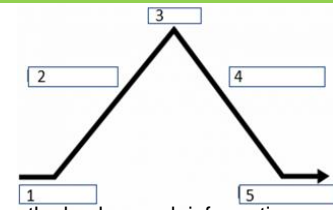
<b>The British Empire and Colonialism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The British Empire existed for nearly 400 years in total. During this time Britain lost and gained colonies.</li> <li>It spread from the Americas to include colonies in Africa, Asia and Australasia.</li> <li>British laws were brought to colonies that often did not take into account cultural differences.</li> <li>Britain exploited natural resources for their own financial gain.</li> </ul>
<b>The Georgian Era 1714-1837</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after the four monarchs who ruled during this time: George I, George II, George III and George IV.</li> <li>During this time, Britain's Empire was expanding.</li> <li>A time of rapid progress as a result of the Industrial Revolution as new technology was developed and transport improved.</li> </ul>
<b>The Ottoman Empire (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An empire that controlled much of Southeast Europe, Western Asia and Northern Africa.</li> <li>Under the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the tenth Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Ottoman Empire reached the height of its power.</li> </ul>
<b>French Revolution 1789-1799</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After an economic crisis, the working classes revolted to overthrow the monarchy, which led to external and internal wars.</li> <li>A period of rapid political and societal change that caused France to become a Republic.</li> </ul>
<b>Early Medicine and Sawbones Before the 18<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many lives were lost during early surgery and medical procedures.</li> <li>Doctors and surgeons performed medical procedures without enough knowledge and with no anaesthetic.</li> <li>This meant that people did not trust surgeons and referred to them as 'Sawbones'.</li> </ul>
<b>Resurrectionists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Body snatchers who were employed by anatomists to dig up bodies of the recently dead for medical research.</li> <li>There were not many bodies available to test on, meaning corpses became a commodity that people would pay for.</li> <li>It was difficult to regulate because bodies were not legally anyone's property.</li> </ul>
<b>The Slave Trade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It began with Portuguese (and some Spanish) traders, taking mainly West African (but some Central African) slaves to the American colonies they had conquered in the 15th century.</li> <li>British sailors became involved in the trade in the 16th century</li> <li>The slave trade made a great deal of profit for those who sold and exchanged slaves.</li> <li>In 1808, the Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves made it illegal to import slaves from abroad.</li> <li>In 1837, the Slave Compensation Act gave previous slave owners over £20 Million in compensation due to them no longer being allowed to own slaves.</li> </ul>

Characters	Information about the characters
<b>Ezra McAdam</b>	Our <b>protagonist</b> who is a mixed-race ex-slave. His dream is to become a surgeon like his master. <b>Protagonist:</b> the main character in a story.
<b>Loveday Finch</b>	A young woman who used to assist her father with his magic act. She is determined to find out what happened to her father.
<b>Mr William McAdam</b>	Ezra's master who freed him from slavery and gave him an apprenticeship. He is known for being an excellent surgeon.
<b>Mr Lashley</b>	Another surgeon who is known for being a not very effective surgeon.
<b>Dr James McAdam</b>	The nephew of Mr McAdam who does not seem to like Ezra and the choices Mr McAdam has made.
<b>Prince Mahmoud</b>	An Ottoman prince who was kept as a captive before fleeing to London.
<b>Mr Charles Finch</b>	A magician who has died in mysterious circumstances.

## Vocabulary

**Antagonist:** a character who causes conflict and is typically the 'villain'.  
**Colonialism:** the forced control/power of one country by another  
**Revolution:** the forced overthrowing of a government leading to a new system. Can also mean a significant change in how something is done.  
**Empire:** a group of countries ruled by a single monarch or government  
**Republic:** a country that is ruled by elected rulers and is not ruled by a king or queen  
**Monarchy:** a country that has the king or queen as head of state  
**Anatomy:** the study of the bodily structure of humans, animals or other living beings  
**Cadaver:** corpse/body  
**Sultan:** a sovereign or king in a Muslim country and is typically the 'villain'.  
**Metaphor:** literally means 'To transport'. Metaphors 'transport' meaning from one idea to another  
**Tenor:** the subject of the metaphor and its intended meaning  
**Vehicle:** the language used to describe the tenor  
**Ground:** the relationship between the tenor and the vehicle  
**Connotation:** an idea suggested by a word or phrase  
**Inference:** An inference is an educated guess we make from evidence in front of us while accessing previous knowledge  
**Unconventional:** not doing what is generally done or believed.  
 Malevolent  
 Resurrectionist  
 Vulnerable: Exposed to the possibility of harm

## Aristotelian Plot Structure



1. Exposition: the background; information we need to know about what happens before the story begins.
2. Rising Action: what happens after the inciting incident leading towards the climax.
3. Climax: the point at which the main character in the story will succeed or fail.
4. Falling Action: the action that occurs immediately after the big climax has taken place and the action shifts towards resolution instead of escalation.
5. Denouement: the consequences of the outcome of the climax.

## Plot

- In 18th century London, Ezra is working as apprentice to a highly respected surgeon, William McAdam.
- Ezra is of mixed heritage background and was an ex-slave who was freed by his master William McAdam.
- Whilst he is grateful to his master, who rescued him from a life of slavery, Ezra is eager for independence.
- Then a strange series of events changes everything.
- The unconventional Miss Loveday Finch, daughter of a magician, is looking for answers about her father's death.

Social/Historical Context

- The British Empire:** For approximately how many years did the British Empire exist?
- Colonialism:** What did Britain exploit from its colonies for financial gain?
- The Georgian Era:** Which four monarchs is this era named after?
- Industrial Revolution:** The Georgian Era saw rapid progress in technology and transport due to what major historical event?
- The Ottoman Empire:** Who was the Sultan when the Ottoman Empire reached the height of its power?
- The French Revolution:** What specific type of crisis led the working classes to revolt and overthrow the monarchy?
- Early Medicine:** Why were early surgeons often nicknamed "Sawbones"?
- Resurrectionists:** Why was it legally difficult to regulate the act of "body snatching"?
- The Slave Trade:** In what century did British sailors first become involved in the slave trade?
- Abolition:** How much money was given to slave owners in the 1837 Slave Compensation Act?

Characters

Information about the characters

Create a mini character profile for each character.

**Aspirations:** What is Ezra's ultimate dream for his future?

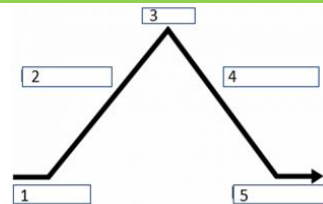
**Conflict:** Which character specifically disapproves of Ezra and his master's decisions?

**Antithesis:** Which surgeon serves as a contrast to William McAdam due to his lack of effectiveness?

**Motivation:** What is the primary reason Loveday Finch is driven to investigate?

**Historical Status:** What term is used to describe Ezra's background as a freed person of color?

Aristotelian Plot Structure



Label each point on the narrative arc.

Vocabulary

**Antagonist:**

**Colonialism:**

**Revolution:**

**Empire:**

**Republic:**

**Monarchy:**

**Anatomy:**

**Cadaver:**

**Sultan:**

**Metaphor:**

**Tenor:**

**Vehicle:**

**Ground:**

**Connotation**

**Inference:**

**Unconventional:**

**Vulnerable:**

Plot

**Job Role:** What is Ezra's current role?

**Background:** Before gaining freedom, what was Ezra's status?

**Conflict:** What is Ezra eager for, despite being grateful to his master?

**Relationship:** How was Ezra related to his master, William McAdam, before his current role?

**Character Background:** Who is the unconventional Miss Loveday Finch the daughter of?