

Name _____ **Cliffhanger**



Origin of the Cliffhanger

A cliffhanger is a storytelling technique that means leaving characters in a difficult and unresolved situation at the end of a story, chapter, or episode. Cliffhangers are a way to create suspense in a story by making readers wonder what is going to happen next. The cliffhanger can be an effective way to keep readers or watchers interested in a story that is made available as a serial or series so that they will read or watch the next installment or episode to find out what happens.

The term "cliffhanger" has its origin in a novel by Thomas Hardy called *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, which was published serially in a magazine between September 1872 and July 1873, one chapter each month. At the end of one of the chapters, Hardy's main character, Henry Knight, was left hanging onto the edge of a cliff. From then on, abrupt and unresolved endings have been called "cliffhangers."

1. Think of something you have read or watched that included a cliffhanger. What was it?

When does the cliffhanger occur? _____

What question or situation is left unresolved? _____
