

SAVE THE CAT! 5 OF 15 BEATS

CATALYST

- Something happens to the hero
- The hero can't go back after this event
- Sends the story in a new direction
- Forces the hero out of their status quo

BREAK INTO 2

- Hero makes a proactive decision to break into 2
- Identify how the hero is doing something new or going somewhere new
- Introduce a new, upside down world that's very different from the status quo
- Forces the hero out of their status quo
- Hero's motivation driven by what they want, not what they need (fixing things the wrong way)

MIDPOINT

- Show a false victory or false defeat
- The hero gets or loses something they want
- Something happens that raises the stakes and turns the story in a new direction
- Shows a subtle shift from wants to needs

ALL IS LOST

- Hero hits rock bottom
- Internal and external bad guys are at fault
- Hero loses something important to them
- There's a whiff (hint) of death.

FINALE

- Fix the problems from Act 1 and Act 2
- Prove that the hero has learned the theme
- Show the hero experiencing difficulty and dealing with conflict

The Climax in Fictionary is a scene or scenes in the Finale.

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FICTIONARY STORY ARC SCENES

INCITING INCIDENT

The inciting incident is the moment the protagonist's world changes in a dramatic way, giving them a goal or motive they simply can't ignore.

PLOT POINT 1

Plot Point 1 is the point of no return. The protagonist can't back out of the central conflict. The character's desire to engage with it overrules all else.

MIDDLE

At the the middle of your story, you'll be taking your readers on a journey where the protagonist moves from reactionary to proactive. Make something terrible or life-changing happen to your protagonist. Your protagonist must then find the strength to deal with whatever horrible thing you've made happen.

PLOT POINT 2

Plot Point 2 will be a low point for your protagonist. The actions they've taken since the middle have caused disaster and they don't know if they can recover.

CLIMAX

You've built your story up to the climax with rising action, and now the climactic scene (or scenes) will have the highest level of conflict, the greatest tension, or the most devastating emotional upheaval.

The protagonist must be in your climactic scene, or else you'll confuse and alienate your reader. The protagonist should face the biggest obstacle in the story and determine their own fate.