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Moral Component Worksheet



*“Moral’ refers to the principles, behaviors, and conduct that specify a person’s sense of right and wrong in themselves, and in the world, and that defines their impact in the world as a human being*

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Use this worksheet to develop the three main components of the Moral Component.

Blind Spot Belief: (The core belief the protagonist has of themselves that is fundamentally wrong, but they think is true—but are not consciously aware of.)

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*Question 1*: “What would they have to believe about other people [the worldview] to justify acting badly in the world?”

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*Question 2*: “What would they have to believe [incorrectly] about themselves to justify that particular world view [view of people]?”

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*State the Blind Spot*: (Use all of the above to formulate a prose statement that states the moral blind spot of your protagonist.)

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Immoral Effect: (The behavioral strategy the character uses to express the blind spot in action on the page. How are they acting badly in the world, hurting others?)

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Dynamic Moral Tension: (What is the dramatic tension driving them to change or not change, e.g., to lie or not lie? Needs to relate back to the blind spot and immoral effect.)

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Additional questions to ask to help identify the three components:

Question: “What will the character learn about themselves at the end of the story?”

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Question: “Is this lesson consistent with their blind spot and immoral effect?”

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Question: “Is the lesson learned personal and not generic to any human or situation? This needs to be subjective to the character, not thematic and general.”

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