

SEVEN POINT STORY STRUCTURE

Quick Guide and Checklist

1

The Resolution



- List the characteristics of your lead character(s) at the end of your story.
(e.g. brave, courageous, vengeful, etc.)
- List details about your story world at the end.
(e.g. paradise restored, apocalyptic, wizard world opened, etc.)
- What is the overall feeling of the ending (happy/sad)?
- Does the ending tie up all the loose ends?
- Does your character achieve his objective in the end?

Further reading on WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/story-structure-the-resolution/>

NOTE: Write out all you know about the ending of your story in a fresh document. Just do a complete mind dump of everything you can think of and don't worry if all of it doesn't make sense yet. Truth be told, most of it won't make it into your final story anyway.

Just keep writing. Don't squash creativity.



- Does your hook come before the 1/8th mark of your story or earlier? *(earlier the better, even on the first page)*
- How will you draw your readers into your story world immediately? *(choose one, two, or all three element to hook your reader)*
 - * Character
 - * Story problem
 - * Setting
- What about your character makes them interesting right away?
- What about your setting makes it interesting right away?
- What problem presents itself or is already present when the reader begins to read?

Further reading at WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/story-structure-the-hook/>

NOTE: Focus on these three elements when crafting your hook.

Character, Problem, Setting

You have a short time to grab your reader's attention so using one, two, or three of these elements to draw them in is critical.

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The First Plot Point



- Does your first plot point fall roughly at the 1/4th mark of your story?
- Can life for your character go back to the way it was before this point?
- How does everything change for your character and your story as a whole?
- What event incited this first plot point to happen?

Further reading at WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/story-structure-first-plot-point/>

NOTE: The First Plot Point (FPP) sets the rest of your story into motion. Your lead character is put into reaction mode until the Mid Point and life is uncertain right now. Make sure the FPP is big enough to kick start the story.

4

The Mid Point



- Does your Mid Point fall roughly at the, uh... *well*, 1/2 way mark of your story?
- The Mid Point is where your character goes from reaction to proaction (yes, I just made that word up). What event prompts your lead character to take action?

Further reading at WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/story-structure-the-midpoint/>

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NOTE: The most important thing to remember about the Mid Point (MP) is that the reader will start to get bored. The MP is usually called the muddle since it is the longest part of the book and seems to drag. With that in mind make sure that your character moves from **REACTION** to **PROACTION**.
Enough running, time to take action!

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The Second Plot Point

- Does your Second Plot Point fall roughly at the 3/4th mark of your story?
- Does your character have everything they need to enter the resolution part of your story?
- If no, what else do they need? (*More knowledge, magical sword, the Force, Sorcerer's Stone, etc.*)

Further reading at WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/seven-point-story-structure-second-plot-point/>

NOTE: The Second Plot Point (SPP) opens the door for the Resolution to take place. The lead character has everything they need now and is ready to face the “evil force” for the final battle. Also, at this point you probably don’t want to introduce anymore characters or sub-plots into your story. All the threads of the story are beginning to tie together for the Resolution.



- Does your first Pinch Point fall roughly between the First Plot Point and the Mid Point?
- Does your second Pinch Point fall roughly between the Mid Point and the Second Plot Point?
- Do your Pinch Points give your reader visibility of the antagonistic force against your character?
- How does your antagonistic force interact with your main character and the main story plot?

Further reading at WtA:

<http://www.writerstoauthors.com/sevenpoint-story-structure-pinch-points/>

NOTE: The point of the Pinch Point (PP) is to show the reader the “evil force” against your lead character. Think of the PP as a quick reminder to the reader of the dangers the lead character faces if they don’t accomplish their mission.

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