

# Major Plot Points



This big-picture plot points worksheet is designed to help you sketch out your plot in broad strokes. Feel free to refer back to your Mythic Mashup or Story Structure worksheets to help. PS - There's no need to answer every question. Focus on the ones that seem meaningful to your story.

## 1. Opening Scene: Introduction of the Protagonist and Their World

- What external problem does the protagonist have to solve?*
- How does the protagonist interact with the world and setting?*
- How is the protagonist introduced?*
- How do they exhibit a likable or compelling trait?*
- What story questions are created?*
- What emotion do you want to evoke in readers?*

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## 2. Inciting Event: The Moment Things Change

- What situation will change the protagonist's life (for better or worse)?*
- What situation presents the protagonist with a problem and an opportunity to fix it?*
- What situation puts the protagonist onto the path to the core conflict (willingly or not)?*
- What situation will trigger the rest of the novel?*

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## 3. Act One Problem: The Discovery of the Problem

- What problem is a direct result of what happens in the inciting event?*
- Is it big enough to carry the plot to the midpoint of the novel?*
- Will it lead the protagonist to the core conflict and be resolved in the climax?*
- Does it force the protagonist to leave their comfort zone?*
- Does it raise the stakes and show why the problem matters to them personally?*
- Does it present them with a hard choice they need to make to move forward?*

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#### 4. Act Two Choice: Deciding to Deal with the Problem

- Why does the protagonist choose to accept the problem of the novel?*
- What goal is created that will drive the plot forward?*
- How does it show the premise in action and suggest where the story is going?*
- Does this goal lead to the midpoint reversal?*

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#### 5. Midpoint Reversal: Things Unexpectedly Change

- What situation will reveal new information that changes how the protagonist views the world and problem?*
- What surprise might be revealed?*
- How does this situation raise the stakes (again) and becomes more personal?*
- How does this new direction or surprise pile on the pressure and start a ticking clock?*
- How might this lead to stripping away the protagonist's support system??*

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#### 6. Act Two Disaster: The Worst Happens

- What situation shows the protagonist has not yet learned the lessons they needed to learn?*
- How does it drop the protagonist into the Dark Night and All-Is-Lost moments?*
- What forces them to dig deep and examine who they are and what they want?*
- What aspect of it triggers their internal growth for their character arc?*
- How does it show the protagonist what truly matters?*

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## 7. Act Three Plan: Taking on the Fight

*What decision allows the protagonist to merge their old ideas and beliefs with the new ideas and beliefs learned in the novel?*

*What allies do they gather to help defeat the antagonist?*

*What situation shows the protagonist has overcome past fears and embraced their new self and views?*

*What raises the stakes yet again, and possibly requires a sacrifice?*

*What situation or choice sends the plot into the climax with a plan of action?*

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## 8. Climax: Facing the Problem Head On

*What situation resolves the core conflict and main problem of the novel?*

*How does the protagonist face the antagonist directly?*

*How does this “final battle” resolve the protagonist’s character arc (if there is one)?*

*What raises the stakes and tension to its highest point?*

*What behavior shows the protagonist has changed and fully embraces who they are now?*

*Is there a surprise twist with a yet another increase in stakes?*

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## 9. Wrap Up: All’s Well That Ends Well

*What situation fulfills the promise you made to readers at the start of the novel?*

*What shows the protagonist is happy or satisfied in their new life?*

*Is there a sense of things resolved for these characters?*

*Does it hint at where the characters will go from here?*

*Does it underline or emphasize the theme?*

*How does it wrap up any loose ends?*

*What’s left unanswered?*

*Does it mirror the opening scene (optional)?*



### **Congratulations on finishing this section!**

Get some feedback on your story outline through your critique group or RC1’s Peer Critique Forum. Revise what’s not working. Expand on what you love.