



Exercise Nine – Positive Change Arc

The Midpoint

Your protagonist will have spent the First Half of the Second Act blundering around in unfamiliar territory, making mistakes based on false assumptions, and getting in trouble for every wrong move. But she is also going to have been slowly, maybe subconsciously learning her lesson and figuring things out. These personal revelations are going to lead her up to a very special turning point at the story's Midpoint which is about half way through the story.

The Midpoint emphasis is always placed on the protagonist's shift from a reactive role (not in control of the conflict) to an active role (taking control of the conflict). This is a fundamental turning point in your book. Without this shift, you have no evolution, no variety, and no story. But taken at face value, this explanation of the Midpoint is incomplete. Where, after all, does this shift come from? It comes from deep inside the character. It comes from the heart of his character arc: the Moment of Truth.

What is your story's Midpoint event?





What can you do to make this centrepiece scene as 'big' as possible?

How have the events of the First Half of the Second Act led up to the Midpoint by slowly helping your protagonist see the benefit of no longer using as many Lie-based tactics to reach her goal?

How will the external events of the Midpoint prompt a 'Moment of Truth,' in which the character sees the benefit of the Truth and embraces them?

How will the Moment of Truth prompt the character to turn away from the effects of the Lie in her life?





During the rest of the Second Act, how will you demonstrate your character's deepening inner conflict, caught between Lie and Truth?

What is the character still failing to understand about the total nature of the Truth that will prevent her from being able to fully implement it?

How will the events of the Midpoint act as a swivel between the two halves of your story – shifting your character out of uninformed reaction and into education action?





How will the character's continuing inner conflict and incomplete understanding of the Truth prevent her from achieving total victory while still in the Second Act?

