



### Exercise Five – The Normal World

The Characteristic Moment is only half of a good character arc's opening. It gives the readers a character, but the character still needs context. Answer the following questions to help you.

**Briefly describe the physical setting of the Normal World (e.g. Melbourne, Mars):**

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**How does your chosen Normal World symbolically represent the Lie Your Character Believes?**

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**How will the Normal World visibly prove to readers your protagonist's "before" stat at the beginning of the story?**

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**What setting for the Normal World provides the most logical backstory for why your character believes the Lie?**

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**What is holding your protagonist in the Normal World that has kept her from leaving before now?**

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**How is your chosen Normal World initially empowering your character to continue believe in her Lie by giving her no reason to look beyond it?**

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**How will the Normal World contrast with the Adventure World that will follow in the next two acts?**

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**Which of the following will best describe the Adventure World of your story's main conflict?**

- A dramatically new and different setting
- The same physical setting as the Normal World, with only facets of the world changing

**When your protagonist is later forced out of the Normal World into the Second Act, how will this begin to shake her belief in the Lie?**

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**Will the character return to the Normal World at the end of the story?**

- Yes
- No





**If the Normal World remains a legitimately good place, how will the protagonist's dark new perspective of the Truth put her at odds within it?**

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**If the Normal World remains a place limited by the Lie, how will the protagonist have moved past her ability to fit in there?**

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**If the protagonist impacted the Normal World over the course of the story, how will it have grown disillusioned by the end as well?**

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