



Exercise Seven – 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):

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

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

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





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

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?

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

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 initially give her an opportunity to look past the Lie?

