



Exercise Nine – The First Plot Point

Because Negative Change Arcs are about a descent into darkness, they must begin in a place high enough for the story to descend from. Answer the following questions to help you.

What event occurs at the end of the First Act that causes your character to leave the Normal World and irreversibly begin pursuing her main story goal?

In what way might this event be surprising even after the Inciting Event?

Which of the following best describes your First Plot Point?

- A seemingly positive opportunity
- Something disastrous

What decision on your character's part led her right up to the First Plot Point, making her at least partially responsible for what happens?





Which of the following best describes your First Plot Point?

- It destroys the Normal World, leaving the protagonist no choice but to move on
- It physically removes the protagonist from the Normal World
- It warps the Normal World, forcing the protagonist to adapt to new ways of surviving within it

Which best describes your protagonist's reaction to the First Plot Point?

- Enthusiasm – she wants to enter the conflict of the Second Act
- Resistance – she has to be forced to enter the conflict of the Second Act

After the First Plot Point, how will your protagonist react?

What definitive action will she take to move forward into the Adventure World of the main conflict?

Which will the character be trying to do:

- Restore the old normal

How:





Find a new normal

How:

Name three new physical needs that must be met in the aftermath of the First Plot Point:

1.

2.

3.

What definitive new plot goal will the character now adopt (something quantifiable, based on the Thing She Wants)?

Do you want the character to ultimately achieve this goal?

Yes

Why?

No

Why?





How will the character's decisions and actions in the aftermath of the First Plot Point give her the opportunity to overcome the Lie, while also sowing seeds for an even worse manifestation of the Lie yet to come?

What about the Adventure World of the Second Act makes the character's initial Lie less comfortable than it was in the Normal World?

