

That

THREE ACT STRUCTURE



ACT 1

THE HOOK:

Definition: Something in the opening scene that hooks the reader's attention so they'll continue reading.

Example: The Hunger Games. Foreshadowing about the reaping, and the hunger games themselves.

ESTABLISH NORMAL:

Definition: Showing what the character's normal life is like and how it differs from our own.

Example: The Hunger Games. Katniss and Gale hunting in the woods and visiting the market.

INCITING INCIDENT :

Definition: The event that sets the plot into motion and thrusts the main character into action.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss volunteers for the hunger games.

BUILD - UP :

Definition: When the final pieces necessary for the main conflict are moved into position, while increasing the tension.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss and Peeta train and are interviewed with the other tributes.

P O I N T O F N O R E T U R N :

Definition: The event that propels the main character into the central conflict of the story, breaking away from the status quo.

Example: The Hunger Games.
The hunger games begin.

ACT 2

R E A C T I O N / P L A N :

Definition: The main character scrambles to deal with obstacles created by the antagonist.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss struggles to survive, searching for food and water while hiding from the other tributes.

FIRST PINCH POINT:

Definition: A reminder of the antagonist's power.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss is trapped in a tree by the career tributes.

MIDPOINT:

Definition: The turning point in the story.
Either a major shift in the conflict, or a moment of realization, that propels the character into decisive action.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Peeta helps Katniss escape the careers, causing her to realize her best chances are to join forces, which leads her to Rue.

P O S T - M I D P O I N T A C T I O N :

Definition: Thanks to their new understanding, the main character takes action against the antagonist.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss teams up with Rue to destroy the career tributes supplies.

S E C O N D P I N C H P O I N T :

Definition: A reminder of the antagonist's power and what's at stake.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Rue is killed.

R E N E W E D P U S H :

Definition: The main character takes action and comes to a seeming victory.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss finds Peeta.

A C T 3

D A R K E S T M O M E N T :

Definition: When it seems that all hope is lost and the main character doesn't know how they'll overcome the odds.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss and Peeta are starving in the cave, and Peeta is badly injured.

R E C O V E R Y / A H A M O M E N T :

Definition: The main character has a realization or gains new information that will lead them to the final climax.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss retrieves medicine for Peeta, and Foxface dies, leaving only Cato.

C L I M A X B E G I N S :

Definition: Turning point that forces the main character and antagonist to finally face each other.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss and Peeta are forced to go to the cornucopia for water.

CLIMACTIC CONFRONTATION :

Definition: The moment when the main character and the antagonist finally face off.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss and Peeta face off against Cato at the cornucopia.

CLIMACTIC MOMENT :

Definition: The moment in which the main character or the antagonist claims a victory.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss and Peeta pretend to eat the poisonous berries, both winning the hunger games.

R E S O L U T I O N :

Definition: Easing the reader out of the climax and tying off loose ends.

Example: The Hunger Games.
Katniss tells Peeta their romance was just for survival, and they return to District 12.

N O T E S :

[illegible]