







# Hero's Journey Plot Outline









For more information about plot outlines, go to: <https://www.novel-software.com/genrestorytemplates>


## Act 1

Introduction to protagonist's world	You set the scene, introduce your character and their normal life, just in time for them to...	 
Call to action	... be torn from it! Actually it's better if they're not torn, but have to commit to the decision themselves. In any case, the challenge is put forward. You can start building sympathy for your character by ensuring their decision is something the reader can identify with and / or respect.	 
Crossing the threshold	In order to ensure your lead has the pressure on and therefore your readers are hooked into wondering how they'll ever get out of this mess, it's good if your hero crosses some kind of threshold that is difficult, if not impossible, to get back to normal life from. It may be a physical journey across land, the removal of allies, self-inflicted isolation or becoming wanted and on the run.	 





 Add Act Item  Delete Act

## Act 2

A mentor teaches the protagonist	Readers want to see a character develop into a real hero who can overcome the odds. Everybody needs help sometimes. Mentors in popular fiction include Dumbledore, Morpheus, Rafiki and Obi Wan Kenobi.	 
Series of increasingly difficult challenges	Although this is listed as a single stage, it really represents the whole of the middle act. You might want to start by creating extra stages, each one to represent a challenge of increasing difficult. Your hero will win some challenges and lose others, but either way the pressure, stakes and jeopardy should be continually ramping up.	 
Temptation	Add depth to your lead by giving them a challenge they have to find the strength of character to overcome.	 
Dark moment	As you near the climax of your book, circumstances start piling up. Push your lead to the limits to the point they are questioning everything they know, and very nearly slip to the dark side. The closer they get to failing, the more nail-biting it will be. But in the end they pull through, which brings them to...	 

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## Act 3

Final conflict	The final battle! This is the climax of your story and you must pull out all the stops to make it great. We'll work on this in great detail later, looking at what makes a satisfying ending, so for now you should just have a loose idea of whether your hero succeeds or fails.	 
Return home	Once your climax is completed all there is to do is tie up loose ends, will your lead live happily ever after? Do they return home or stay in their new place? Who is with them at the end?	 

 Add Act Item  Delete Act

This worksheet is based on a screenshot from the Novel Factory Online novel writer's software. If you'd like to be able to use the interface to complete and edit your plot outline, and see a range of other plot outlines for popular genres, you can [get a free trial here.](#)