

CHARACTER STORY ELEMENTS

A STORY ELEMENT IS A MANDATORY PORTION OF A STORY. THINK OF THE STORY ELEMENTS AS THE BUILDING BLOCKS YOU’LL USE TO ENSURE YOUR NOVEL IS STRONG.

CHARACTERS PER SCENE

The love of your characters will keep readers coming back. Evaluating your Characters Per Scene helps ensure you’re making the most of each character.

POINT OF VIEW

When you choose a Point of View character for a scene, you promise your readers they will experience the scene from that character's perspective.

POV CHARACTER GOAL

The POV Character Goal is what the character wants during a scene. Goals drive your story forward. If a character doesn't have a goal, then what are they doing?

POV CHARACTER GOAL INTERNAL

The Internal Goal of the POV character is related to a character weakness. The weakness will hinder the character and is something they must overcome.

POV GOAL RELATED TO PLOT

Linking the goal to the plot will make your characters believable, enable you to trim scenes, and help you intensify scenes.

WHAT IF GOAL FAILS?

If there is nothing at stake, then the goal is not strong enough and there won't be tension in the scene.

SCENE IMPACT ON POV CHARACTER

It’s impossible to keep track of a character's emotional arc without knowing how each scene impacts that character.

SCENE IMPACT ON PROTAGONIST

What does the protagonist feel as a result of what happens in the scene. The protagonist might not be in the scene but could still be affected by the scene.

POV KNOWLEDGE GAINED

Knowing what the Point of View character learns in the scene will help you form the character arc and make plot choices.

CHARACTERS IN MOTION

Check your scene and determine if the characters in the scene are in motion. If the characters are not in motion, rewrite the scene with motion to add depth to the scene.