

ESTIMATE YOUR ACTS

Total word count* of WIP = _____ Total pages = _____

** Make sure your word count is acceptable for your genre (see chart below).*

End of Act 1 = 25% mark = _____ words. Page _____

- Inciting Incident = page _____
- 1st Plot Point = page _____

End of Act 2 = 75% mark = _____ words. Page _____

- Midpoint = 50% mark = _____ words. Page _____
- 2nd Plot Point = page _____

End of Act 3 = last page

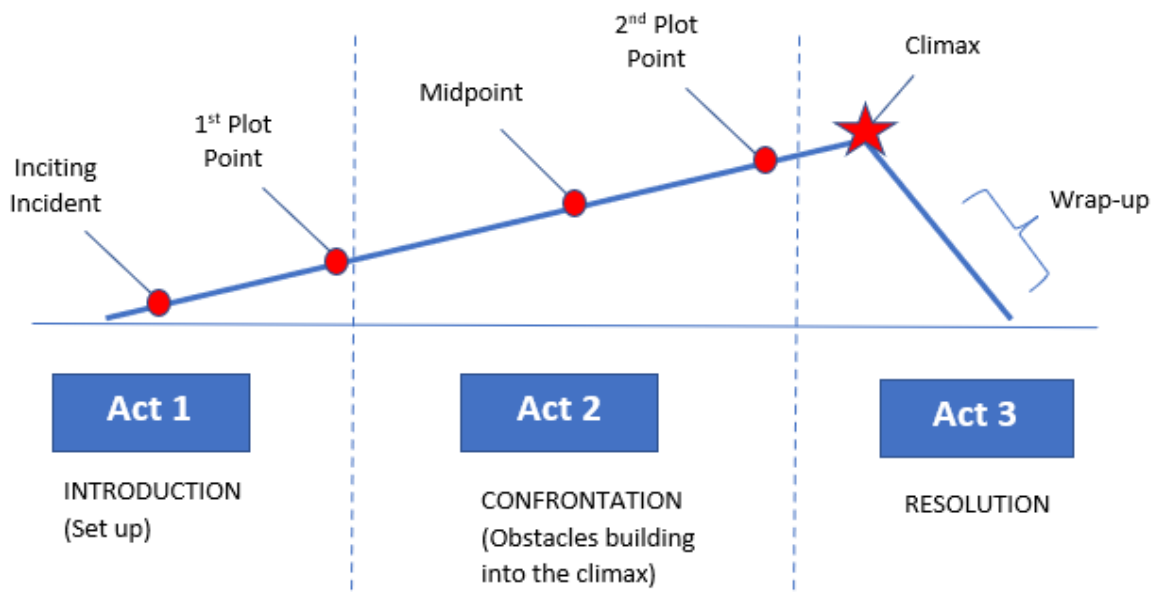
- Climax = page _____

CATEGORY/GENRE	AVG WORD COUNT
Children's	
Picture Book	500 – 1,000
Early Reader	1,000 – 2,500
Chapter Book	4,000 – 10,000
Middle Grade	25,000 – 50,000
Young Adult	45,000 – 70,000
Adult	
Young Adult	50,000 – 80,000
Romance	50,000 – 100,000
Thriller/Mystery	70,000 – 90,000
Historical	80,000 – 120,000
Paranormal	85,000 – 100,000
Sci-Fi-Fantasy	90,000 – 120,000



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PLOT ANALYSIS WORKSHEET



ACT 1

Describe the hero's normal world. (What does a typical day look like for the hero?)

What is the Inciting Incident? (This is the event that starts the story by disrupting the status quo.)

What is the 1st Plot Point? Does it push the story in a new direction?

What does the hero now need to achieve (the GOAL)?

What stands in the hero's way?

FLESHING OUT OTHER ACT 1 DETAILS

Have you introduced and described your characters, especially your hero? (This includes not only physical attributes but ages and personalities.)

Where does your story take place? Is enough—but not too much—description provided?

Have you grounded your story in time? (day/night + past/present/future)

Is your narrator clearly identified? (Whose POV are we in?) Does it remain consistent?

ACT 2

Describe the hero's new world. (The 1st Plot Point changes something for the hero—what/how?)

List the Obstacles the hero will need to overcome (the things your hero needs to deal with as a result of the Inciting Incident), building to the Climax. Once listed, go back and rank obstacles from smallest to largest, with "1" being the smallest.

What is the Midpoint? Is there a reversal or change in your hero?

What is the 2nd Plot Point? Does it shift the story in a new direction again?

What tools has the hero acquired (internally & externally)?

ACT 3

What is the Climax? (This is the “big bang,” the “final showdown/battle,” where the main story problem—introduced at 1st Plot Point—is solved.)

And what is the resulting Resolution?

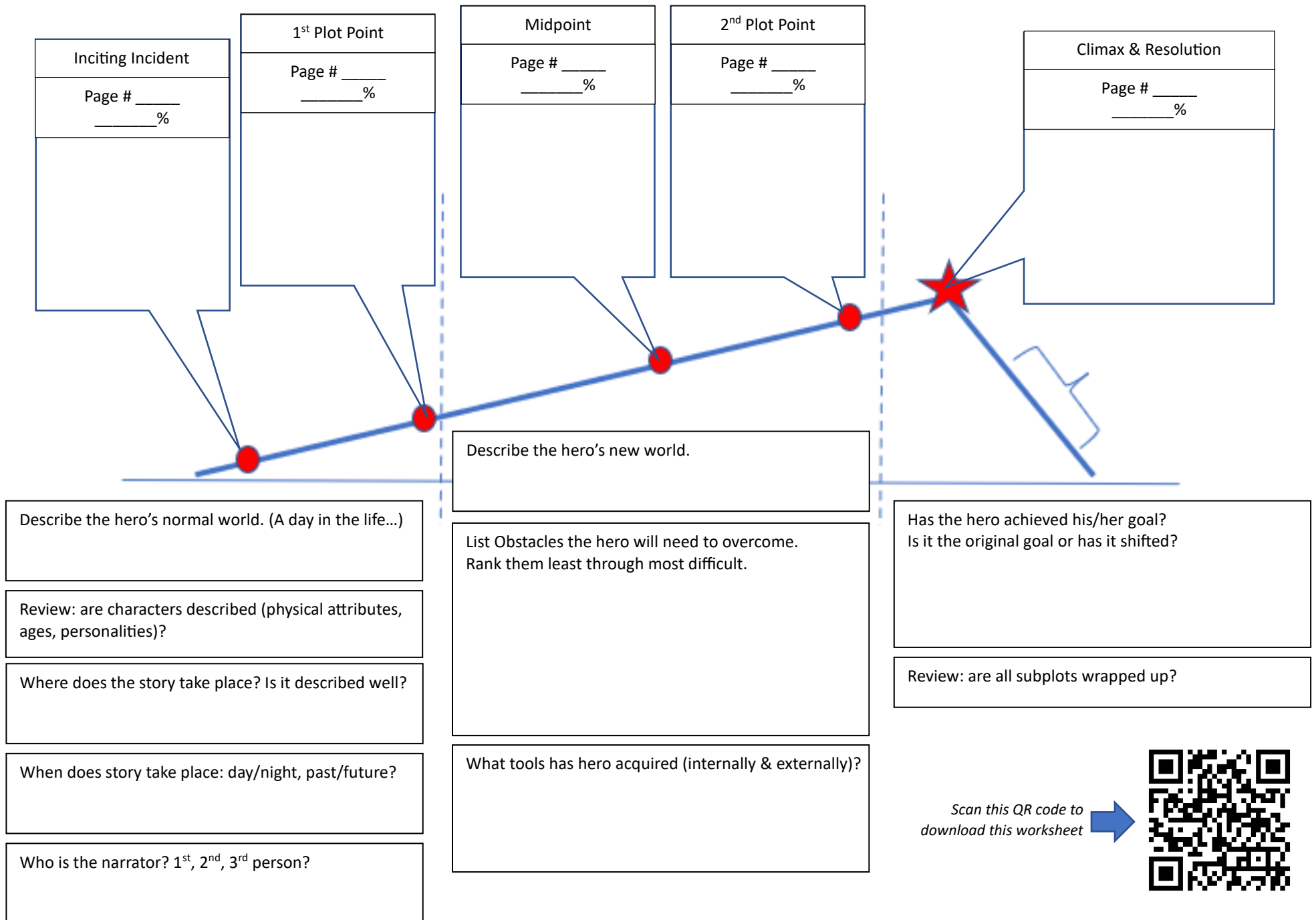
Has the hero achieved his goal? Is it the original goal, or has the goal shifted?

Does your story wrap up all loose ends and subplots?

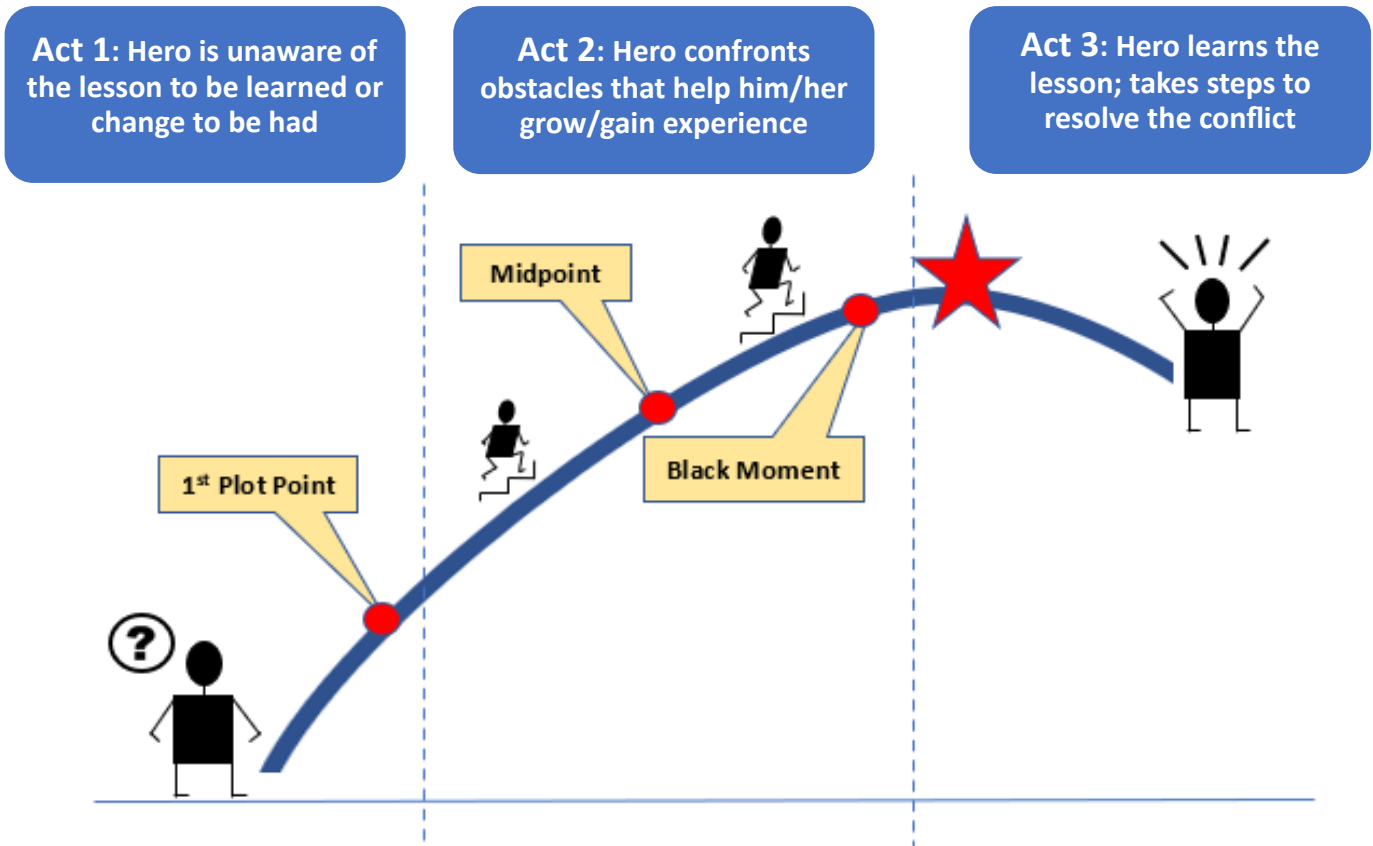


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PLOT ANALYSIS FLOWCHART



CHARACTER ARC WORKSHEET



ACT 1

What are the hero's goals & emotional state in the normal world? What does he/she struggle with?

How does the 1st Plot Point affect your hero?

What are your hero's goals and emotional state after the 1st Plot Point?

ACT 2

Look back at the Obstacles you listed in the Plot Analysis that your hero faces in his/her new world. What external skills does the hero acquire from these Obstacles that will allow him/her to resolve the Climax?

What internal skills does the hero acquire from the Obstacles that will allow him/her to resolve the Climax?

How does the Midpoint Obstacle shift the hero from reactive to proactive?

What is your character's lowest of low points? (The Black Moment, when the hero loses all hope, is also the 2nd Plot Point.)

ACT 3

How does the hero apply the newly acquired skills (internal & eternal) to confront/resolve the Climax?

Does the hero achieve the goals from Act 1, or does his/her goal shift?

Describe your hero's character arc in one sentence.

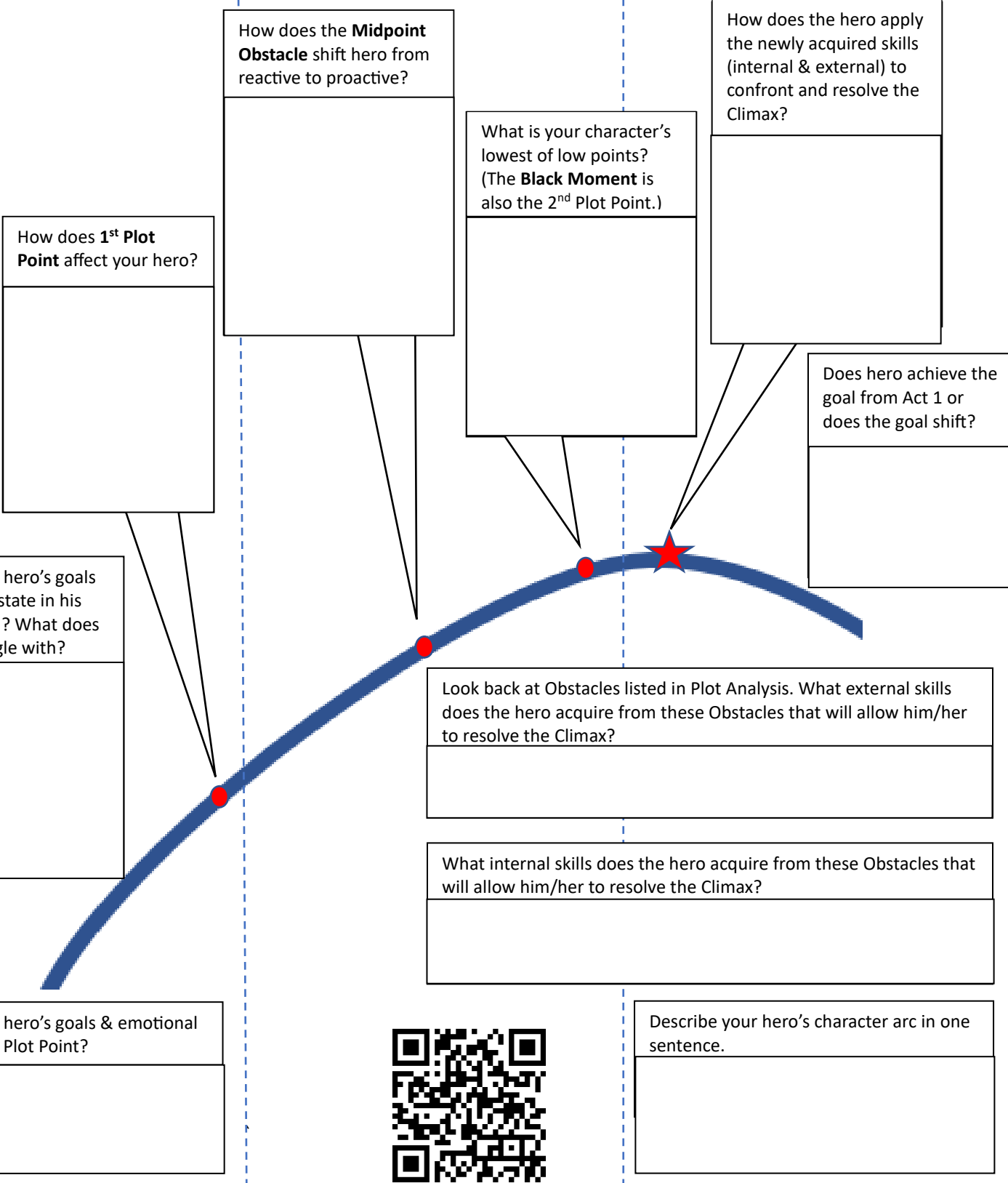


CHARACTER ARC FLOWCHART

Act 1: Hero is unaware of the lesson to be learned or change to be had

Act 2: Hero confronts obstacles that help him /her grow/gain experience

Act 3: Hero learns the lesson; takes steps to resolve the conflict



How does **1st Plot Point** affect your hero?

How does the **Midpoint Obstacle** shift hero from reactive to proactive?

What is your character's lowest of low points? (The **Black Moment** is also the 2nd Plot Point.)

How does the hero apply the newly acquired skills (internal & external) to confront and resolve the Climax?

Does hero achieve the goal from Act 1 or does the goal shift?

What are the hero's goals & emotional state in his normal world? What does he/she struggle with?

Look back at Obstacles listed in Plot Analysis. What external skills does the hero acquire from these Obstacles that will allow him/her to resolve the Climax?

What internal skills does the hero acquire from these Obstacles that will allow him/her to resolve the Climax?

What are the hero's goals & emotional state after 1st Plot Point?

Describe your hero's character arc in one sentence.



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