

Chicken Scratch Books



Analyzing the Earth Shaking Event

The Earth Shaking Event is the first turning point scene in your story. This is where your reader jumps with your protagonist onto their new path—or doesn't. Make sure they do!

- If your manuscript is complete, divide the page count into 4ths. What happens at the end of the first fourth? Is your Earth Shaking event before that, or after? (It should be before, but not in the first chapter.) Have you grounded the reader enough in the main character's 'normal' world that they are emotionally invested before the shake up?
- Identify your Earth Shaking Event Scene. Then ask yourself these questions:
 - External Desire:
 - What is your protagonist's external desire leading up to this scene?
 - Why?
 - What are they trying to do?
 - Does this desire shift in this scene?
 - Why?
 - How?
 - Is this External Desire portrayed well in the Earth Shaking Event Scene?
 - Internal Think Need:
 - What does your protagonist *think* they need to do (or achieve or understand) in order to get what they want? (It's probably wrong.)
 - What do they *think* will solve their problems? (It's probably wrong.)
 - What do they *think* their path should be going forward? (It's probably wrong.)
 - Is this 'think need' understanding clear to the reader?
 - Is the protagonist's reasoning along these lines relatable?
 - Is this Internal Think Need portrayed well in the Earth Shaking Event Scene?
 - Agency
 - Was the Earth Shaking Event brought on by a choice the protagonist made? (It doesn't have to be.)
 - Is the protagonist considering multiple options as they try to understand the situation?
 - Does the protagonist make a conscious choice to act in a certain way?
 - What is that choice?
 - Does this choice support the External Desire and/or the Internal Think Need?
 - Can your reader relate to why and how this choice was made?
 - Is this agency clearly portrayed in the Earth Shaking Event Scene?