

Chicken Scratch Books



Analyzing the Mid-Point Decision

The Mid-Point Decision is the second turning point scene in your story. Making this scene a deliberate choice and shift will keep your story middle from sagging.

- If your manuscript is complete, look at the exact middle. What's happening in this scene? Before this scene started, was the main character still on the same choice path they made after the Earth Shaking Event? Have there been failures since that choice? Are they now confused and frustrated and unsure? Are they still trying to tackle their problems in the same way? (It's time for a shift.)
- Identify your Mid –Point Decision scene, then ask these questions:
 - Previous Failures:
 - How has your protagonist attempted to solve their problems before this scene?
 - Did they succeed? Fully or partially? (Better not be fully!)
 - Did it give them what they needed?
 - What are they still lacking?
 - Does this scene provide them a chance to reflect on these previous failures?
 - Does this scene give them a chance to reflect on what didn't work?
 - New Understanding Acquired:
 - What has your protagonist learned from these failures?
 - Has their understanding of (or perspective on) their main problem changed?
 - Do they now have new knowledge that will help them?
 - Is their understanding of their 'desire' more akin with their 'think need'? Or their understanding of their 'think need' getting closer to uncovering their 'root of all needs'?
 - Does what they think they need still lead them off course somewhat? (Good!)
 - Does this scene give them a chance to reflect on their new understanding?
 - Agency:
 - Armed with wisdom gained from failures and new understandings, does this scene include a new direction idea?
 - Is the protagonist considering multiple options as they try to decide what to do next?
 - Does the protagonist make a conscious choice to act/think in a specific new way?
 - What is that choice?
 - Does this choice stem from their reflections on failures and understandings?
 - Can your reader relate to why and how this choice was made?
 - Will this new choice lead to the solution to their problems? (It better not! Much more failure still needs to happen.)
 - Is this agency clearly portrayed in the Mid-Point Decision?