

Identifying the Major Moments of Your Novel

If jumping around from scene to scene in your first draft seems too daunting or overwhelming and you want a system with a little bit more order, consider this. Fill in the major moments of your novel.

For the sake of demonstration, here is what this system might look like for a story such as Cinderella.

- The opening scene
The king, having perceived his age, the state of his kingdom, and his unmarried son, decides to have a ball.
- plot point 1 scene
The Fairy Godmother, having outfitted the heroine with clothes and glass slippers, advises her to be back home by midnight.
- The scene at midpoint
Dancing with our heroine, the prince falls in love. Cinderella, in a swoon, forgets to mind the time.
- plot point 2 scene
The clock strikes. The coach turns back into a pumpkin. Cinderella loses her slipper.
- Climax (Catharsis Scene)
Cinderella braves the Wrath of the wicked stepmother to try on the shoe. It fits.
- resolution
Her loyal subjects cheer the marriage of a new princess.



Your Turn

- The opening scene
- Plot point 1 scene
- The scene at midpoint
- Plot Point 2 scene
- Climax
- Resolution

