

To Plot or Not to Plot?

JF Garrard, Deputy Editor,
Ricepaper Magazine




Agenda

- What is plot?
- Different Type of Plots
- Story Structure: 7 Narrative Structures
- Story Structure Templates Tools



What is plot?

- In fiction, a plot is the cause and effect sequence of significant events that make up the story's narrative.
- These events can include things like an inciting incident, mid-plot point, climax, and resolution. 

...

Different Types of Plots



- Tragedy
- Comedy
- Hero's Journey



- Hero's Journey
- Rags to Riches
- Rebirth



- Overcoming the Monster
- Voyage and Return

Plot Structure

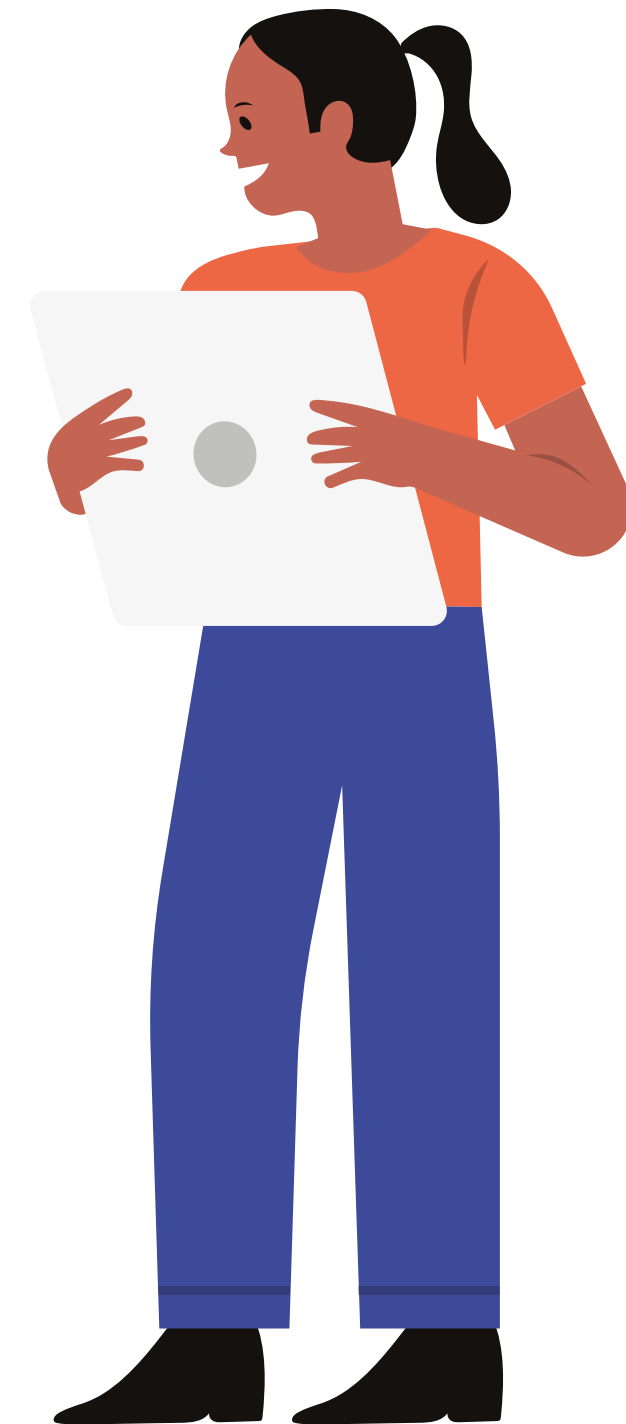


- Plot structure is the order in which elements of a narrative are presented to the reader or audience. It is composed of two things:
 - Plot — the events
 - Story elements — the underlying factors that drive the narrative action: protagonists, conflicts, setting, etc.
- As EM Forster notes, The king died and then the queen died, for instance, is not a plot, but the king died and then the queen died out of grief is one because it reveals a causality in the sequence of scenes. ➤

...

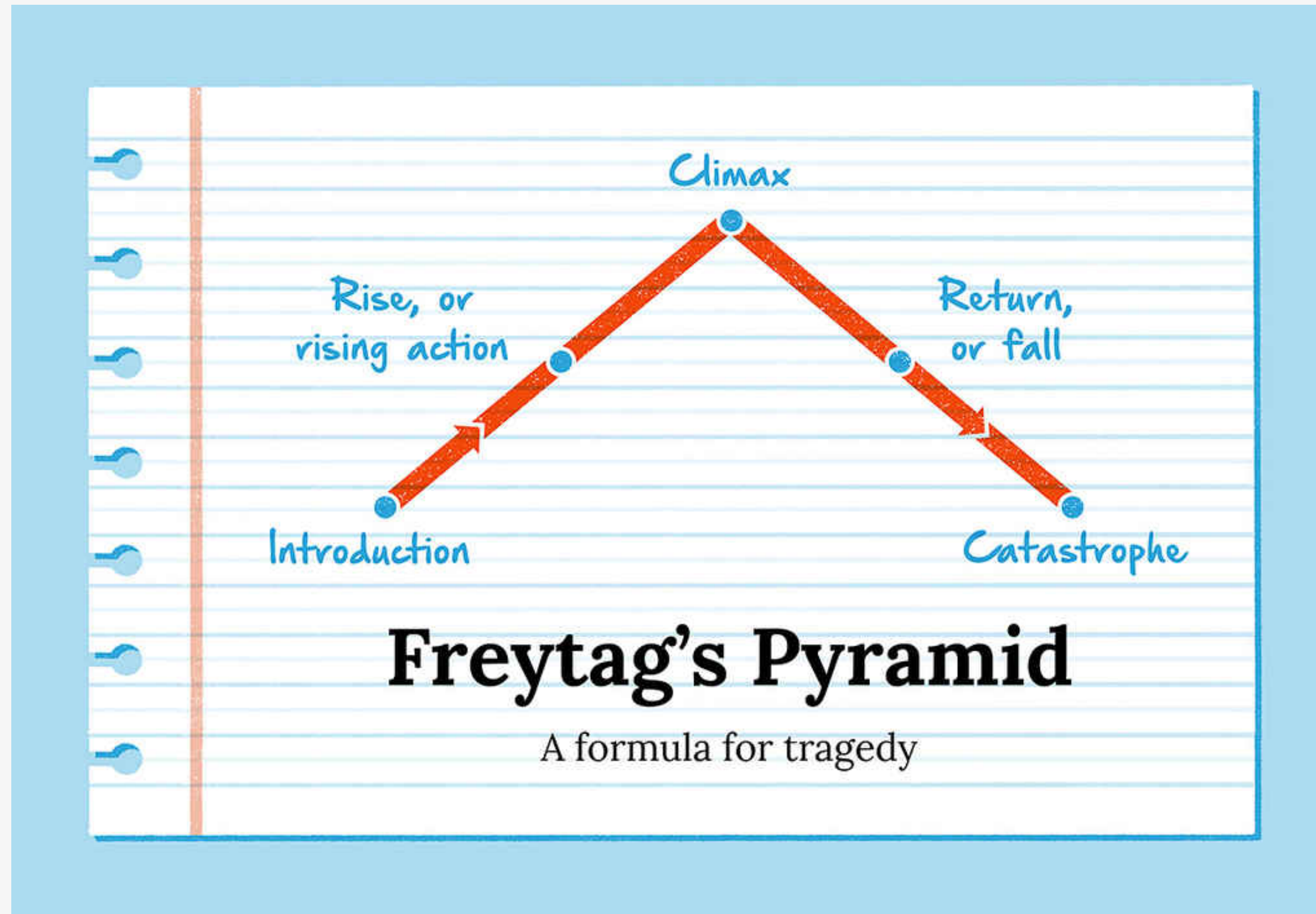
Seven Story Structures

- Freytag's Pyramid
- The Hero's Journey
- Three Act Structure
- Dan Harmon's Story Circle
- Fichtean Curve
- Save the Cat Beat Sheet
- Seven-Point Story Structure



...

#1 Freytag's Pyramid

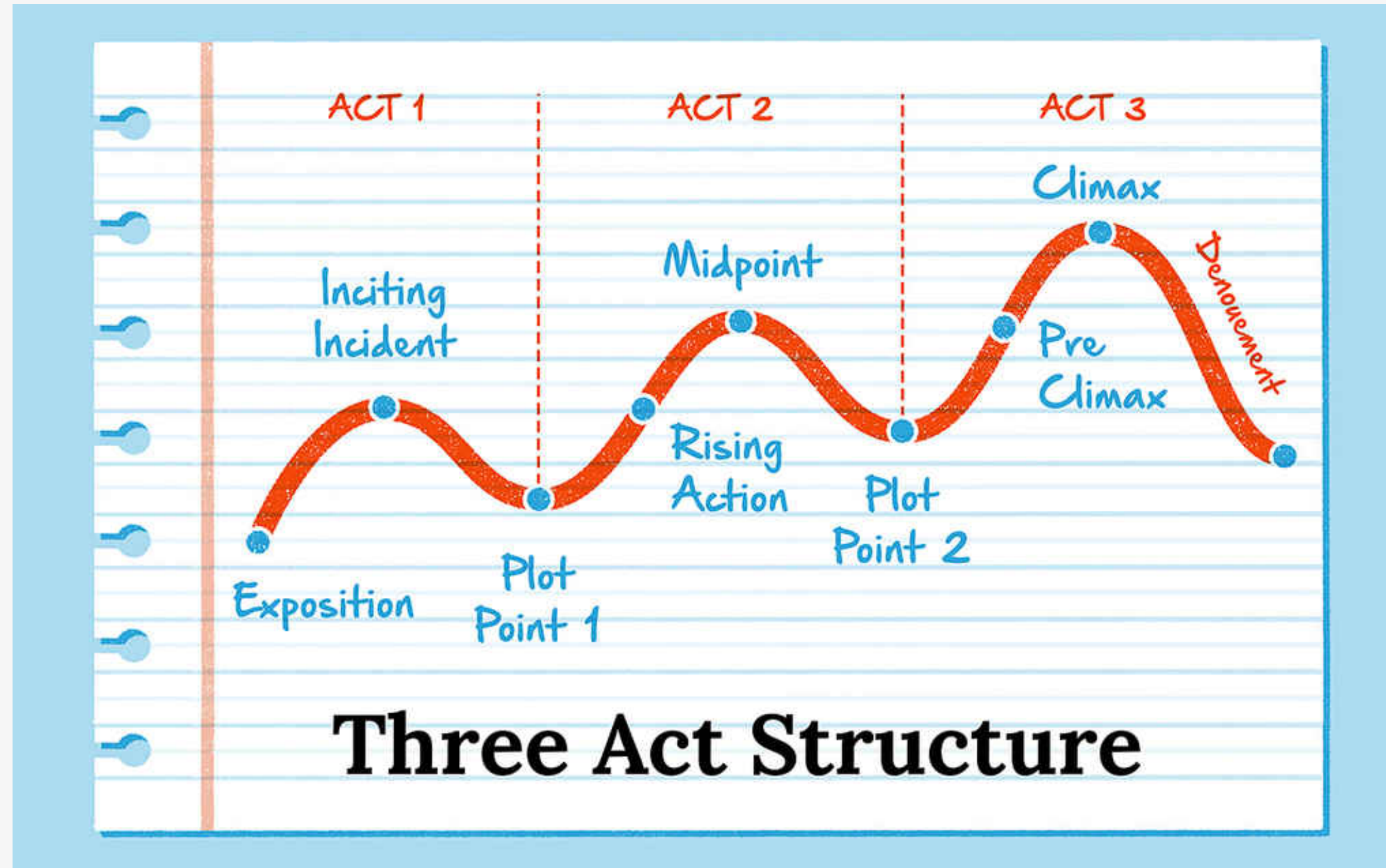


#2 The Hero's Journey



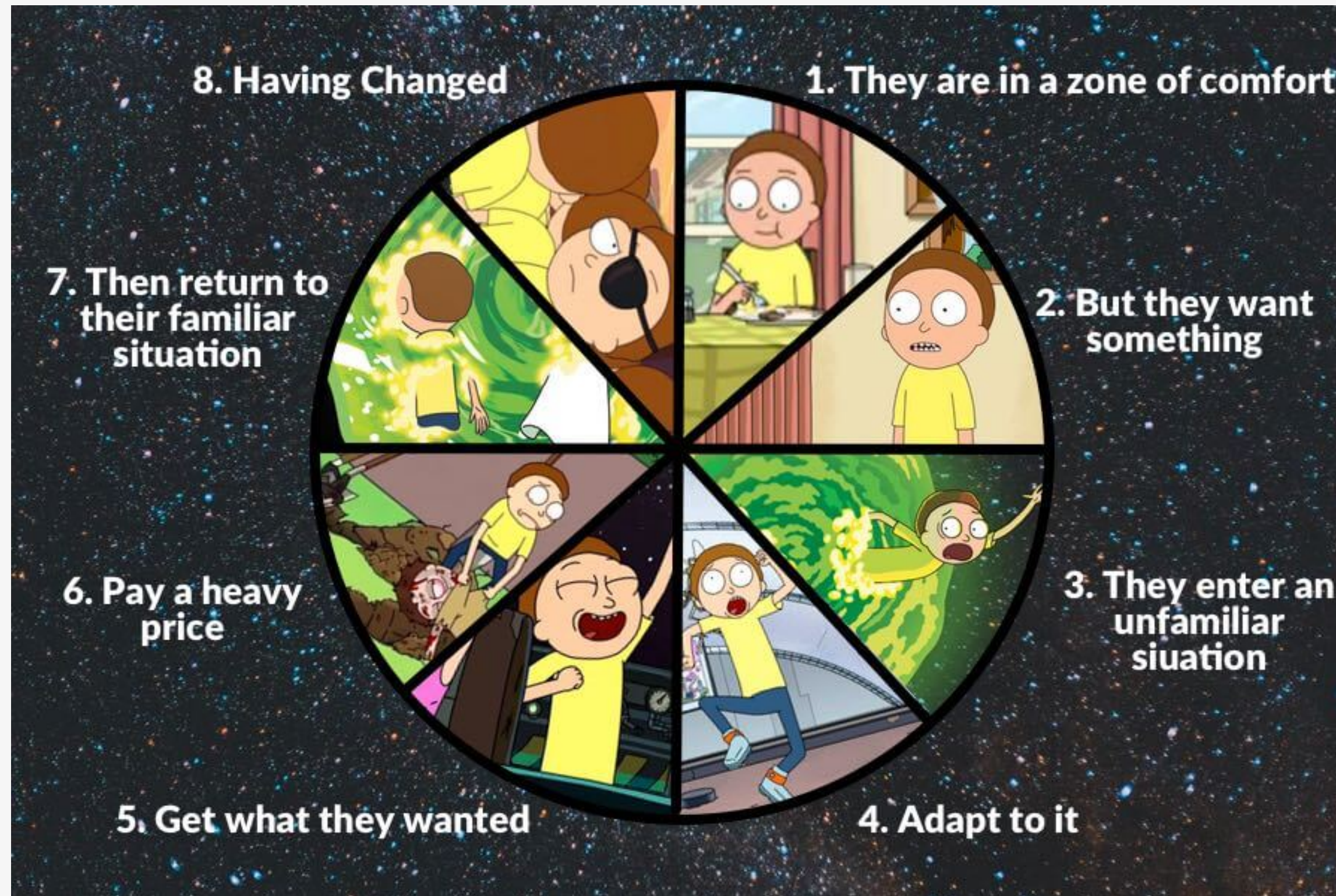
...

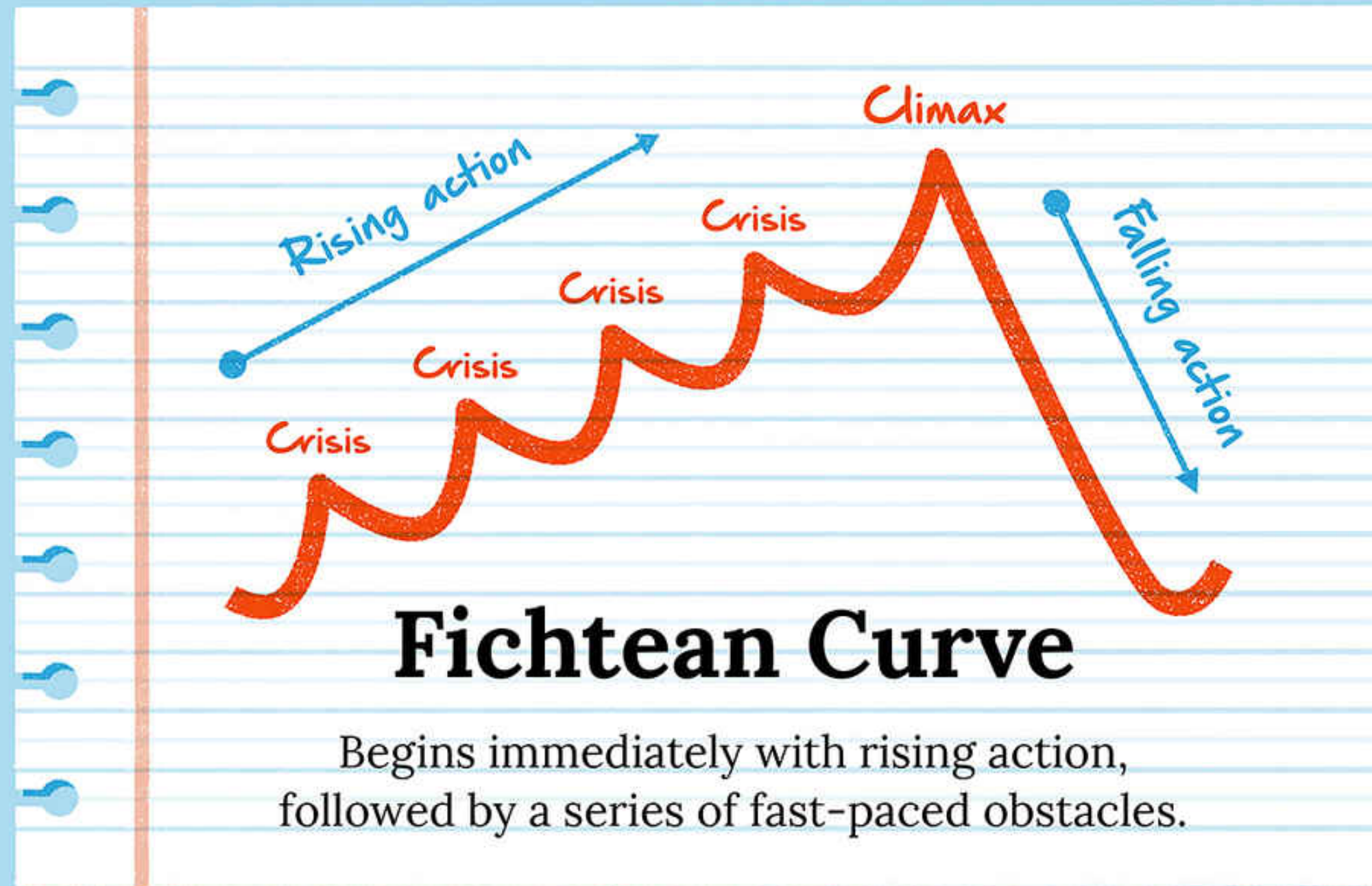
#3 Three Act Structure



...

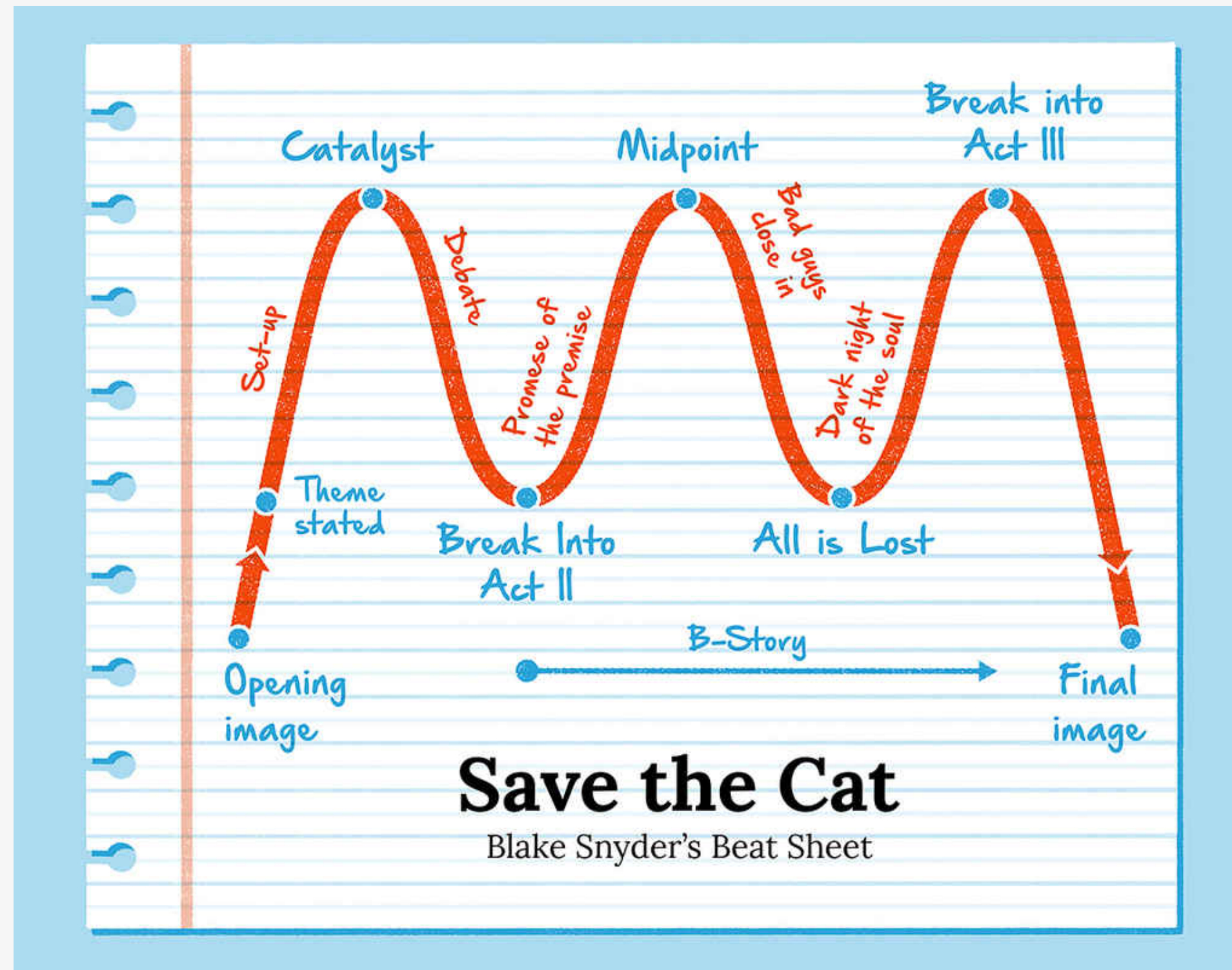
#4 Dan Harmon's Story Circle





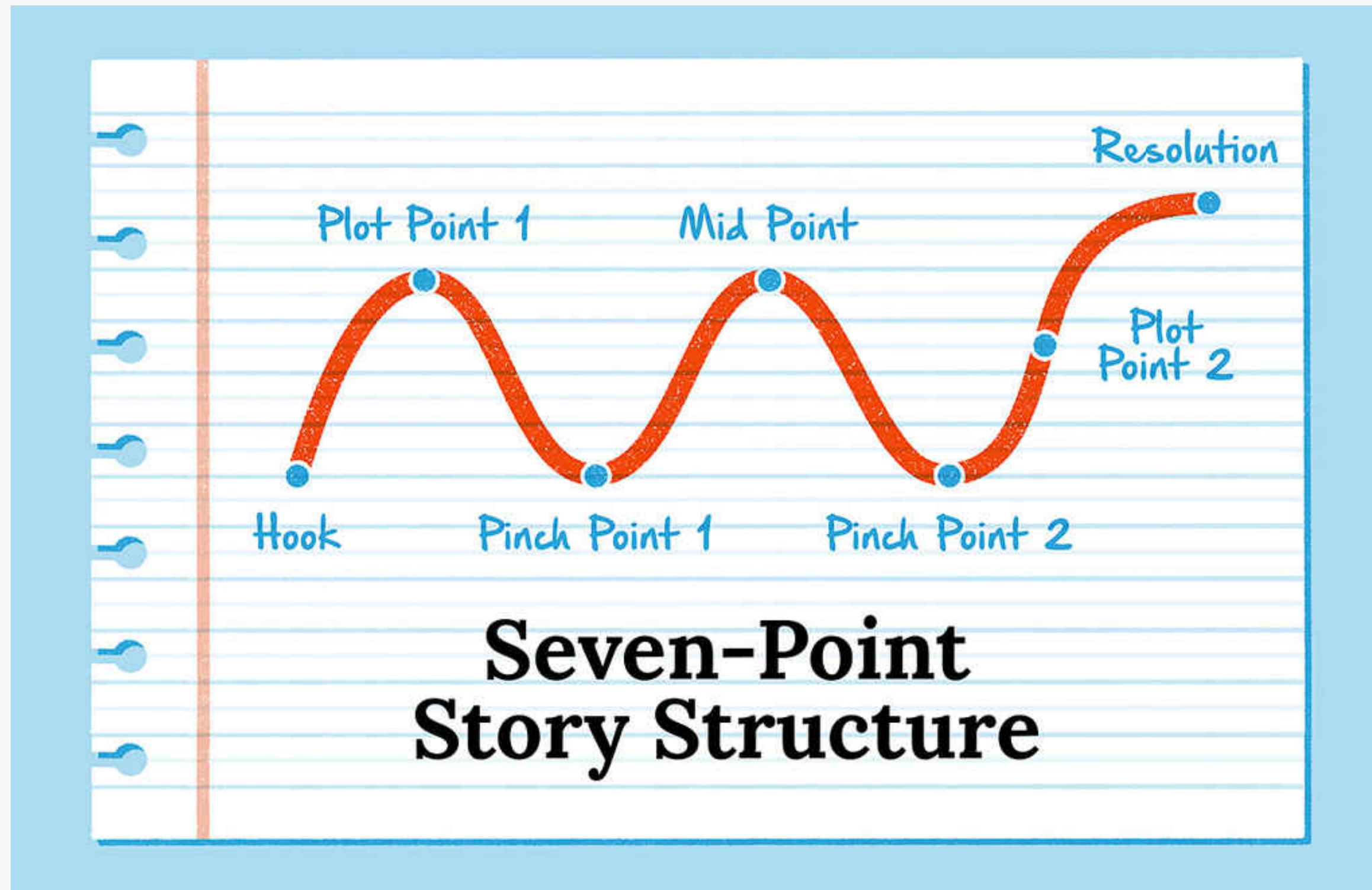
...

#6 Save the Cat Beat Sheet



...

#7 Seven-Point Story Structure





Story Structure Template Tools

- <https://www.novel-software.com/novel-outline-template/>
- <https://self-publishingschool.com/story-structure/>



...

References



- What is Plot? A Writer's Guide to Creating Amazing Plots,
<https://artofnarrative.com/2020/09/08/what-is-plot-a-writers-guide-to-creating-amazing-plots/>
- How to Write Story Plot: Tips, Tricks, and Margaret Atwood's Writing Prompts,
<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-about-writing-plot#what-is-a-story-plot>
- What is Plot? An Author's Guide to Storytelling,
<https://blog.reedsy.com/what-is-plot/>
- Story Structure: 7 Narrative Structures All Writers Should Know,
<https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/story-structure/>