

Narrative arc

Generically: Narrative arc is a term that describes a story's full progression. It visually evokes the idea that every story has a **beginning**, a **middle** where tension, character conflict, and narrative momentum builds to a peak, and an **end** where the conflict is resolved.

Sound familiar?

BUT... you get to decide the sequence of these events! You get to play with the order, but there should always be an order.

Let's try another exercise in the chat. Think about one of the narratives you wrote last week. And try to fill in the following blanks to see if it contained a full narrative arc:

_____ **wanted** _____, **but** _____, **so** _____.

For example:

Ian **wanted** to spend one more day with his dad, **but** the spell wouldn't work without the rare gem, **so** he and his brother went on a quest to find it.

Theme

While I mentioned that having a point should be at the forefront of your storytelling, now is the time to make sure you've expressed it clearly.

EXPLICITLY: You can flat out state your point, your takeaway, at any logical point in time during your narrative arc.

IMPLICITLY: Maybe you will let the actions of the characters or the plot "speak for itself" and make the reader do the thinking. Just make sure you're conveying what you want to convey.