Chapter 1: Protagonist's Normal World

Chapter 2: Inciting Incident That Forces Protagonist From Normal World

Chapter 3: Secondary Characters Introduced; Setting & Tone Established Fully

Chapter 4: Protagonist Must Make a Choice/Decision

Chapter 5: Plot Point 1 — Protagonist Starts Journey As Result of Choice/Decision

Chapter 6: Journey Begins and First Complication Arises
Chapter 13: Character May Wish to Turn Back, But Continues
Characters:

Chapter 14: Obstacles Increase in Complication
Characters:

Chapter 15: Plot Point 2 — New Events Force New Choice/Decision
Characters:

Chapter 16: New Decision Makes Situation Bleak
Characters:

Chapter 17: Situation Gets Worse
Characters:

Chapter 18: Dark Moment — Situation Looks Hopeless
Characters:
The best traditional storytelling plots contain both an internal and external character arc; the protagonist learns a life lesson and his/her/its internal and external life is changed by this. The protagonist begins the story with a desire, preferably an internal and external desire (e.g., to feel loved by finding a husband; to feel self-worth by having an adventure or gain wealth). The antagonist has a desire in conflict with the protagonist’s desire. The story is how the protagonist overcomes the obstacles to either a) achieve the desire or b) realize that a stronger or new desire.

10 Question For Developing Your Plot

- **The Prize:** What is it your character wants?
- **The Hole:** In what way does your character need to grow emotionally, probably unknown to him/her/it?
- **The Back Story:** What is it that is haunting your character as the story begins?
- **The Ultimate Challenge:** What would be the most horrifying thing your character had to do to achieve the Prize?
- **The Inciting Incident:** What event sets the plot into motion?
- **The Strategy:** What does your character decide to do in order to get what he/she/it wants?
- **The Conflict:** Who are some of the people who are working against your character because their goals conflict with your character’s goal?
- **The Bleakest Moment:** What happens to make things look hopeless?
- **The Lesson:** What does your character learn about himself/herself/itself, others or life?
- **The Decision:** What does your character do because of what he/she/it has learned?