

Save the Cat

reedsy

Save the Cat Beat Sheet Template

Outlining a rich and well-balanced story has never been so simple. This template will help make sure you hit all the beats to make your story a success.

NOTE

Page number estimates are based on a 300-page manuscript. Feel free to adjust based on your page count!

Opening Image (Pages 1-3)

Write two sentences to describe readers' immediate snapshot of the hero and their world.

Theme Stated (Pages 15)

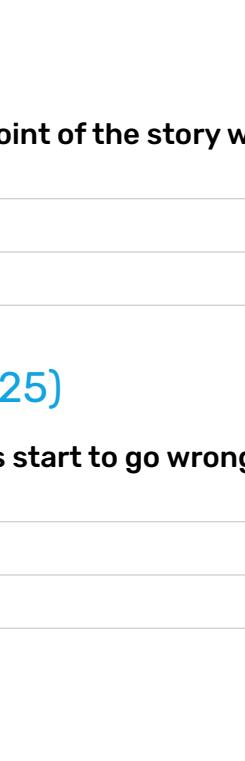
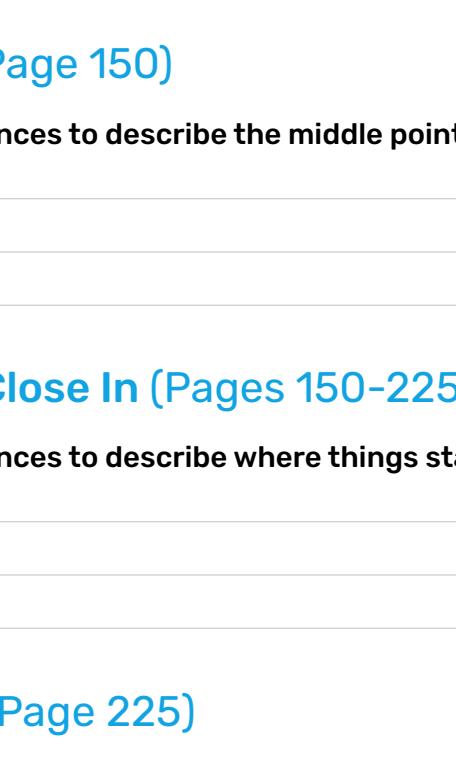
The statement that introduces the central theme or lesson for your hero.

Set-up (Pages 1-30)

Write two sentences to describe your hero's 'ordinary world' and flaws.

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and much more – all for free.

Catalyst (Page 30)

Write two sentences to describe the event that launches the main action.

Debate (Page 30-60)

Write two sentences to describe your hero's reaction to the catalyst.

Break into Two (Page 60)

Write two sentences to describe your hero beginning their journey.

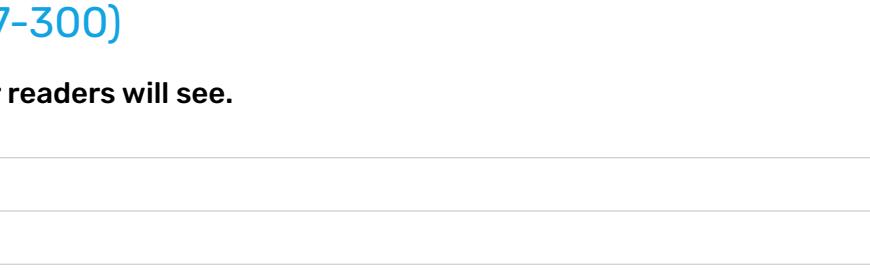
B-Story Begins (Page 66)

Write two sentences to introduce a subplot and B character(s).



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Act I

Act II

Act III

Fun and Games (Pages 60-150)

Write two sentences to describe the bulk of the action in your hero's journey.

Midpoint (Page 150)

Write two sentences to describe the middle point of the story where stakes go up.

Bad Guys Close In (Pages 150-225)

Write two sentences to describe where things start to go wrong for your hero.

All is Lost (Page 225)

Write two sentences to describe the event that sends your hero to rock bottom.

Dark Night of the Soul (Pages 225-240)

Write two sentences to describe your hero's reaction to their defeat.

Break Into Three (Page 240)

Write two sentences in which your hero realizes the lesson they needed to learn.

Finale (Pages 240-297)

Write two sentences to describe your hero resuming their journey with a new plan.

Final Image (Pages 297-300)

Describe the final snapshot readers will see.

Catalyst

Midpoint

Break into Act III

Theme stated

Break Into Act II

All is Lost

Final image

Opening image

Midpoint

Break into Act III

Theme stated

Midpoint

Break into Act III

Opening image

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Break into Act III

Theme stated

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