

# Distilled Novel Timeline

ACT 1

ACT II

ACT III

Opening Scene	Inciting Incident	Plot Point #1	Pinch Point #1	Midpoint	Pinch Point #2	Plot Point #2	Climax
<p>This is where we see the <b>protagonist in her status quo world</b>.</p> <p>We learn who she is and what her world looks like.</p>	<p><b>This is the life-changing incident</b> that turns the protagonist’s world on its axis.</p>	<p><b>This is when the protagonist reacts</b> to the conflict created by the inciting incident.</p>	<p><b>This is the first encounter with an obstacle or antagonistic force</b> on the protagonist’s journey.</p>	<p>This is when your protagonist is <b>forced to move out of reactionary mode</b>.</p>	<p>This point in the story <b>brings the antagonistic force to the forefront again</b>.</p>	<p>This is the <b>all-time low point for your protagonist</b>.</p>	<p>This is when the protagonist <b>renews her attack or actions against the antagonistic force and reaches some kind of victory</b>.</p>
<p><b>We also get a clue about what she wants most.</b></p>	<p><b>This sets her on a new journey that will require she become a different person.</b></p>	<p><b>She doesn’t yet fully understand</b> how it will affect her and her life—how it will interfere with what she wants AND force her to fight for it—but <b>she can’t deny that life will not resume “as usual.”</b></p>	<p><b>She gets new information and clues but may resist what is needed</b> because she doesn’t yet fully understand what is required of her to make the change.</p>	<p>She gains new understanding of her situation and <b>can begin to take definitive and intentional action to move forward</b>.</p>	<p>This event <b>reminds the reader and the protagonist what’s at stake</b>.</p>	<p>She feels that <b>all of her efforts have resulted in more difficulties</b>. Life feels hopeless. She may feel alone.</p>	<p>The victory might be grand or small—even if only a deeper understanding of her situation.</p> <p>The new normal ensues... →</p>
	By pg 45 or sooner	25%	37%		62%	75%	
		62 pgs / 250-pg novel 75 pgs / 300-pg novel	92 pgs / 250-pg novel 111 pgs / 300-pg novel		155 pgs / 250-pg novel 185 pgs / 300-pg novel	187 pgs / 250-pg novel 225 pgs / 300-pg novel	

**NOTES:**

- \* While the weight of each section above looks relatively equal, the bulk of the novel happens in ACT II.
- \* The page estimations are merely that and are offered to give some kind of recognizable framework within which to envision the novel’s progression.
- \* The midpoint is not necessarily half-way through the book. It may come sooner.