

001 Hero's inner journey

The character's want is the outer expression of the lie she's told herself to compensate for her flaw.

Yearning drives her to uncover the truth that will allow her to use her strength to uncover her need.

Will the audience care about this journey?

Can you reveal to the audience a truth about humanity?

002 Yearning

Yearning is the deepest level of desire. It's the intangible goal that drives a character to uncover her self-deception and find the strength to uncover her need.

003 What (Subject)

What higher level of being or purpose does she desire?

What is the primary dilemma of the yearning? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How is the yearning in ironic contrast to the character's lie/want/need?

How does the yearning help solidify the theme of the narrative?

004 Where (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is the yearning most evident?

Where in the geography of the narrative is the yearning clear to the audience?

005 When (Plot)

When in the narrative is the yearning felt most strongly?

When in the narrative is the yearning awoken?

When does the yearning finally

meet its satisfaction?

006 Who (Characters)

Who in the narrative helps unlock the character's yearning?

Who would be most against this yearning?

Who is likely responsible for it existing?

007 Why (Motivations)

Why does this particular yearning belong to this character?

What person, place, or idea has created this yearning in the character?

Will answering this yearning bring balance to the character's life?

008 The lie

The character tells an internal lie to compensate for their flaw.

009 What (Subject)

What is this character's internal lie?

What makes this lie unique to the character?

What is the primary dilemma of the lie? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

010 Who (Characters)

Who is hurt most by this lie?

Who benefits most from this lie?

011 Where (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is the lie most helpful to the character?

Where in the geography of the narrative does the lie cause the most conflict from the lie?

012 Why (Motivations)

What is the reason the character chooses this lie over the truth?

Why is the lie easier to face than the truth?

013 When (Plot)

Where in the plot does the lie help the character the most?

Where in the plot does the lie hurt the character the most?

Who else is hurt by the lie?

Who else is helped by the lie?

014 The want

The want is an outer expression of the lie she's told herself to compensate for her flaw.

015 What? (Subject)

What tangible thing does the character want that she believes will bring her happiness?

What event is the tangible object related to?

How is the theme of the narrative related to this tangible object?

How is this tangible object an outer expression of the lie she tells herself?

How would this tangible object satisfy her wants, but fail to satisfy her deeper need?

What is the primary dilemma of the wanted object? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How does the wanted object solidify the theme?

016 Why (Motive)

What drives the character's want for this object?

Is it clear to the reader why the character wants the object?

Is it shown through actions why the character wants the object?

017 When? (Plot)

When in the narrative is the want clearly established? How is this made clear to the audience?

When in the narrative is it clear the want will not fulfill the character's need?

018 Who? (Characters)

What other characters in the narrative align with the character's want?

What other characters are opposed to the character's want?

019 Where? (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is the object located?

020 The truth

Before the character can understand her need over her want, she must defeat the lie that has her trapped. Truth is what sets her free.

021 Who? (Characters)

What other character in the narrative sees or understands the truth the character must uncover?

What character holds that truth?

Who will help reveal the truth to the character?

022 Why? (Motivation)

Why is this the truth that will be so difficult for the character to accept?

Why is the lie easier for the character to believe?

Why is the character fighting so hard to ignore this truth?

023 Where? (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is the truth most apparent or even revealed?

Where in the geography of the narrative is the truth most hard to find?

024 When? (Plot)

When is the truth made clear to the character?

When is the truth made clear to the audience in the narrative?

When is the truth most powerfully felt by the audience?

025 What? (Subject)

What is the truth the character needs to counter the lie she tells herself to compensate for the flaw?

What makes this truth unique for the character?

Why will this truth be exceptionally difficult for the character to accept?

What will the character have to sacrifice to accept this truth?

What is the primary dilemma of the truth? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How does the truth help to solidify the theme?

026 The need

The need represents the ultimate prize of the fictional character. Throughout the story, the character spends so much time attempting to satisfy their want, that they never see what they truly need to find balance.

Balance does not always mean happiness or moral goodness.

Balance could mean taking over the family business, and the family business is the Mafia.

027 What? (Subject)

What is the character's underlying need?

How does this need truly give the character balance in their life?

What does meeting this need have to say about the human condition?

What is the primary dilemma of the need? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How does the need solidify the narrative?

028 Why? (Motivation)

Why is this the need that will bring balance to the character, rescue them from their flaw, and allow the truth to remain consistent in their life?

029 When? (Plot)

When in the narrative does the need become clear to the reader?

When in the narrative does the need become clear to the character?

030 Where? (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is this need felt most strongly?

Where in the geography of the narrative is this need felt the least?

How is that need shown in the setting?

031 Who? (Characters)

What other character in the story best represents this character's need?

What other character is most

opposed to this character's need?

032 Strength

The direct antithesis of the flaw. Strength is what will allow the character to both overcome their flaw and face the lie that has kept them from the truth.

033 Who (Characters)

What other characters in the story have the strength this character needs?

Who does this character admire for their strength?

What character in the story sees the strength as a negative trait?

034 Why (Motivation)

Why is this the strength that will overcome the character's flaw?

Why is this strength so difficult for the character to embrace over their flaw?

Why is it this strength that helps the character uncover the truth?

035 Where (Setting)

Where in the geography of the narrative is the character's strength most evident?

Where in the geography of the narrative is the character's strength most hidden?

036 When (Plot)

When in the narrative is the strength made clear to the audience?

When in the narrative is the strength made clear to the character?

When in the narrative does the character choose to employ the strength over the flaw to solve problems?

037 What (Subject)

What is the strength, and how will that strength be specific to this character?

What is the primary dilemma of the strength? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How does the character's strength factor into the theme of the narrative?

038 Flaw

Like everything else in this exercise, the flaw must be unique to the reader. Though, stinginess is a character flaw, it's not a unique flaw. A flaw is unique when it expresses the concrete. So stingy that she won't even give herself love, is more concrete.

Try to think of concrete examples of the flaw and how the flaw is expressed by the character.

039 Who (Characters)

Who else in the narrative closely aligns with the character's flaw?

Who helps feed the character flaw?

Who most opposes the character's flaw?

Who in the backstory of the narrative is most responsible for creating the flaw?

040 Where (Setting)

Where is the flaw most likely to cause the character trouble in the geography of the narrative?

Where in the geography of the narrative does the flaw help the character the most?

041 Why (Motivations)

Why is this flaw unique to this character and this character alone?

Why does this character hold onto the flaw?

042 When (Plot)

When is the flaw a point of greatest conflict for the character?

When is the flaw clear to the other characters in the narrative?

When in the narrative does the character choose their flaw over the strength to solve problems?

043 What (Subject)

What is the character's flaw?

What is the primary dilemma of the flaw? Is it good VS good or bad VS bad?

How does the flaw reflect the theme of the narrative?