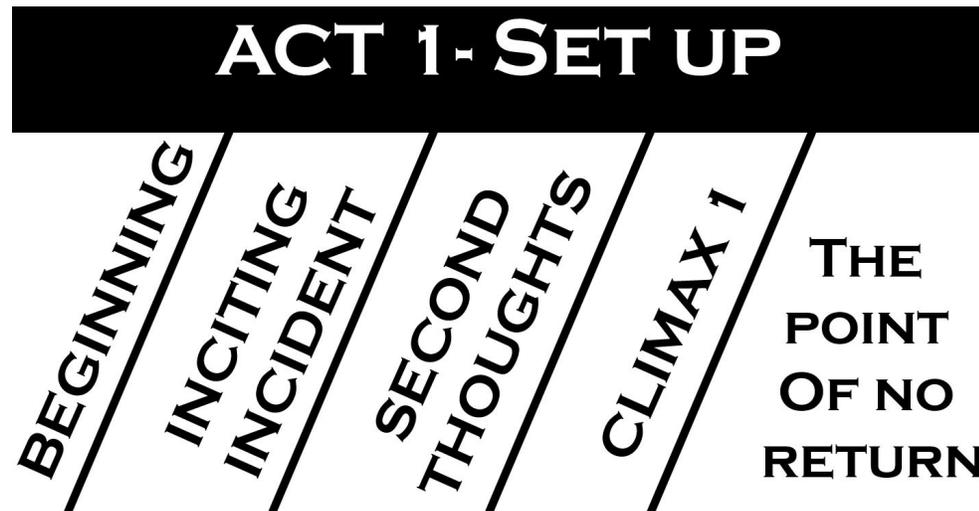


## The Greatest 'Story' Ever Told: Three Act Story Telling



### ACT 1- Set Up

In the set-up we are introduced to our main characters. We learn about the protagonist (main character) and the antagonist (the villain, enemy or archrival). We also learn about a new situation which the protagonist has been placed in, and in the form of rising action we are thrust into a treacherous dilemma along with them.

Mankind (every human born) is the main character in the gospel story and this protagonist is the focus of the story.

### Beginning

The beginning of our story occurs when God made the world and everything in it, including Adam and Eve. Everything was perfect, everything was right, everything was best for man and working just as it should. There was nothing wrong, no sin, no strife, no illness, no death and most importantly, man and God were friends.

### Inciting Incident

Just when you thought life was going perfectly, without a care in the world...Our protagonist comes across something new, something different which presents a type of challenge or change in course in the form of an inciting incident.

The inciting incident of our story occurs when God instructed Adam where he was to eat and not eat. God inserts himself as the authority figure in the story, the ruling being in the universe, and presents Adam with the freedom to choose. This presents our protagonist with the option to continue with life as normal or to investigate this incident further.

## Second Thoughts

The next event in any good story is when the main character has second thoughts about their life/direction *due* to the inciting incident which just occurred. The inciting incident typically forces the main character to question their worldview, their underlying assumptions and their *direction* in life up to this point.

The second thoughts of our story occurs when Eve meets the antagonist, the villain, the archenemy...Satan. It is during her conversation with Satan in which she second guesses God's goodness & *doubts* his love for her, and the thought of *disobedience* first enters her mind.

## Climax Act 1

A strong inciting incident, combined with convincing second thoughts typically leads any story to a very powerful climax for Act 1.

The Act 1 climax for our story occurs when Adam & Eve indeed disobey God...they side with his enemy and *eat* from the forbidden tree. Adam & Eve have now become the *enemies* of God; the ruler of the universe.

This climax has *devastating* consequences. Adam & Eve are now sinful beings...

This means that they are no longer friends with God, they are *immediately* removed from this incredible setting...They will face a terribly *difficult* life riddled with hardship and *disease* ... which will end in their inevitable death and their eventual punishment forever in the lake of fire.

## The Point of No Return

A genuine point of no return means that the fate of the protagonist is truly in the balance, and the odds are greatly against them of *ever* returning to life as normal (in the set up).

## Closing Remarks...

We have been covering all of this to *simplify* the *story* that you should be telling your friends & neighbors.

The hearer/audience must relate to the protagonist...so much so that they must imagine themselves as the protagonist.

Our friends must *see* themselves as Adam & Eve...as characters living in the true story of this world...where God is still the ruler of the universe. Our friends must see themselves as having inciting incidents and second thoughts in their life which led them to the climax of also *sinning* against God.

Our friends must see themselves as having crossed the point of no return...cut off from friendship with God and living in a world riddled with disease and eventual death...with no hope.