

**SEVEN DAYS  
TO**

*intense*

**INTERNAL  
CONFLICT**



DAY SEVEN: CHARACTER ARCS

If your character works through their internal conflict, facing their fears and overcoming them - they will not come out the same person.

Your character by the end of the novel, must be changed in some fundamental, lasting way. We have to believe that this change will stick, so it can't be superficial.

Bo and Cherry by the end of the novel...

- Bo is open to a relationship and believes in love again
- Cherry is not as clingy and terrified that Bo will leave - she knows she can trust him. She now believes that there can be a happy ending

Remember those beliefs they had about LOVE at the beginning of the novel...how have they changed for the better?

Some great examples of character arcs:

- Cherry Cole in Natasha Ander's *The Best Next Thing*: domestic violence escapee to a woman with a loving relationship and a fabulous practice
- Lara Jean Covey in Jenny Han's *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*: young woman who writes about her crushes to a confident young woman with an actual boyfriend
- Wrath in J.R. Ward's *Dark Lover*: reluctant leader to vampire king

## EXERCISES

### Activity 1: Dark night of the soul

This occurs after the third turning point (the worst failure in terms of fear facing). For your character, this is where they give up hope of ever overcoming their fear. For a moment, they'll return back to the person they were at the beginning of the novel. But, that won't stick, because they've changed.

How will your character have changed by the end of the novel?

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### Activity 2: Opening images

Think of how we can be introduced to a character that shows who they are...and how we can flip this with a final image with the reader.

How will you introduce your character?

- Where are they?

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- What time of day is it?

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- What are they wearing?

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- What are they doing?

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- How do they feel?

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- Who are they with?

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This would be the **opening image**.

### Activity 3: Closing images

What is your book's closing image – the final scene in which love conquers all?

- Where are they?

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- 
- What time of day is it?

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- 
- What are they wearing?

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- 
- What are they doing?

- How do they feel?

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- Who are they with?

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This would be the **closing image**.

