

Film Appreciation

Narration in Fiction Film

Hero's Journey
Three-act Structure

You construct the Story!

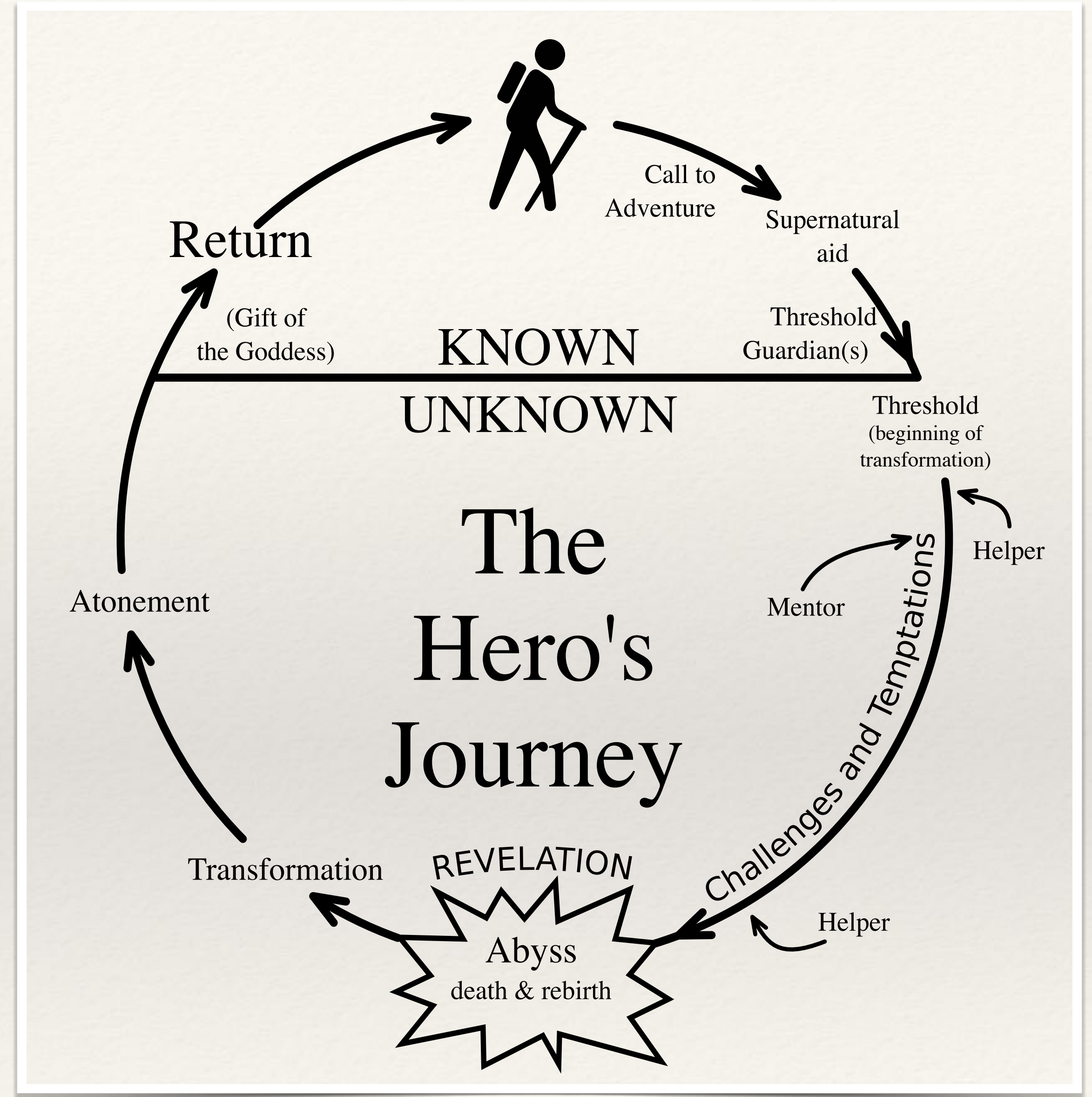
- ❖ Imaginary witness / Invisible Observer
- ❖ Narrative
 - ❖ Through Elements or Building Blocks (Material)
 - ❖ Organization (Structure)
- ❖ Prior Knowledge + Seeing is Believing —> Viewer thinks!
- ❖ Links, links, links
 - ❖ Causal Links
 - ❖ Spatial Links
 - ❖ Temporal Links

Narration in Fiction

Hero's Journey (Rite of Passage)

“A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”

— *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell.



Elements in the Story

- ❖ Hero leaves a secure environment / ordinary world (Departure)
- ❖ Some warning (Don't do this! Don't go there!) (Call to Adventure)
- ❖ Violation (Villain entry) + Hero Crossing Threshold
- ❖ Deception / Disguise / Trickery
- ❖ Complicity
- ❖ Villainy
- ❖ Counteraction
- ❖ Help / Agent / Guidance (Mentors + Allies) —> Initiation
- ❖ Conflict / Trials
- ❖ Victory (metaphorical Death & Resurrection)
- ❖ Resolution & Return

Characters / Actants

- ❖ Hero
- ❖ Villain
- ❖ Dispatcher – send the hero to his quest (directly / indirectly)
- ❖ Helper – Magical entity + Allies
- ❖ Mentor
- ❖ False / Bogus Hero

Three-act Structure

I : Set-up

- ❖ Establish main characters, their relationships, their world
- ❖ Inciting incident — confronts the main character
- ❖ First plot point — ensures life will never be the same for protagonist
- ❖ Raises a dramatic question — to be answered in the climax

Three-act Structure (contd.)

II. Confrontation

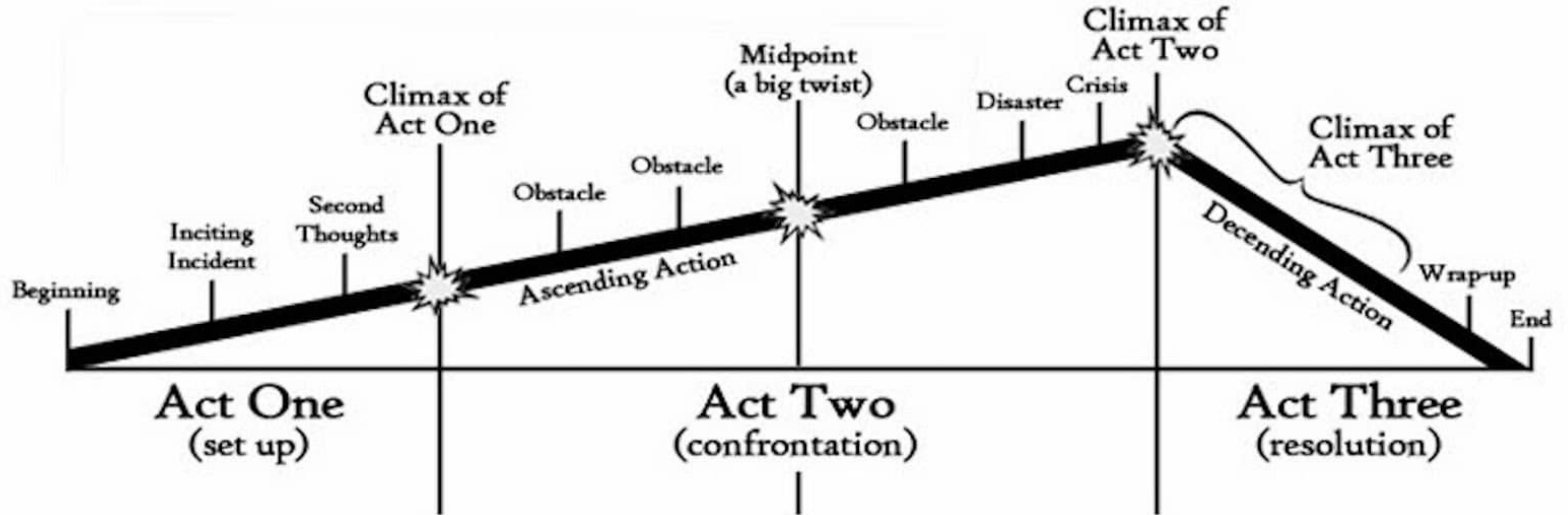
- ❖ Rising Action
- ❖ Attempt to resolve the problem (with help from others)
 - ❖ New skills have to be acquired
 - ❖ Higher self-awareness
 - ❖ Transforms the protagonist

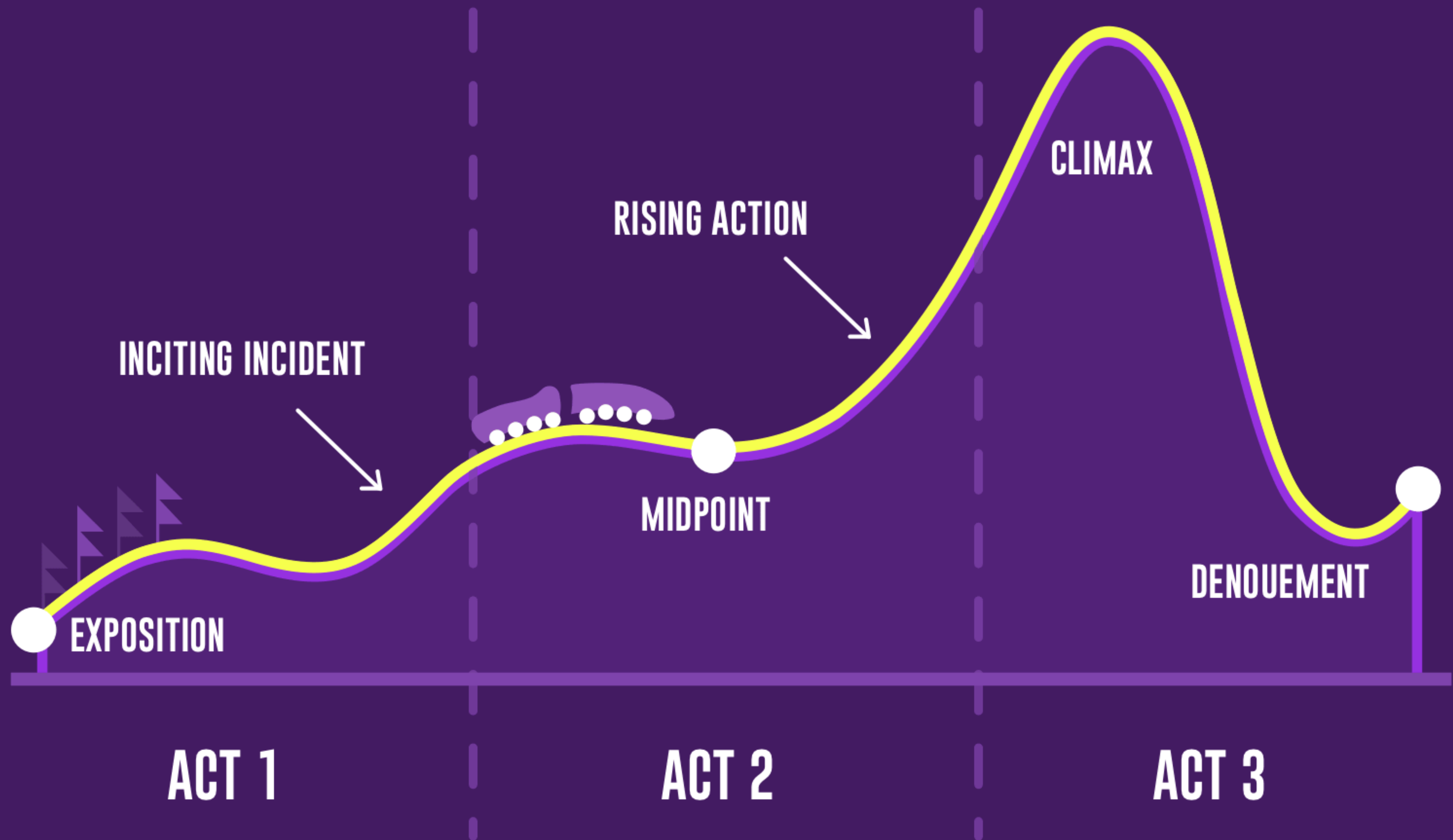
Three-act Structure (contd.)

III. Resolution

- ❖ Climax
- ❖ Main tensions are brought to most intense point
- ❖ Questions answered
- ❖ New awareness for the protagonist

Three-Act Structure





References

- ❖ <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/joseph-campbells-heros-journey/>
- ❖ <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/three-act-structure/>