

Five Major Plot Points

If the sequences are what shape a screenplay's three-act structure, then the five major plot points are the building blocks behind sequence construction: **Inciting Incident, Lock In, Midpoint, Main Culmination, and Third Act Twist.**

1. "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (2001)

- **Inciting Incident:** Harry receives his letter of acceptance to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, discovering he is a wizard.
- **Lock In:** Harry decides to leave the Dursleys and boards the Hogwarts Express, fully committing to the wizarding world.
- **Midpoint:** Harry, Hermione, and Ron discover the existence of the Philosopher's Stone and its importance, realising they must protect it.
- **Main Culmination:** Harry faces Professor Quirrell and Voldemort in an attempt to stop them from obtaining the Philosopher's Stone, leading to a life-or-death confrontation.
- **Third Act Twist:** Dumbledore reveals to Harry that his mother's sacrifice has provided him with protection against Voldemort, adding depth to Harry's understanding of his own history and future battles.

2. "Pride and Prejudice" (2005)

- **Inciting Incident:** Mr. Bingley moves to Netherfield, bringing along Mr. Darcy, sparking social excitement and setting the stage for romantic entanglements.
- **Lock In:** Elizabeth Bennet forms a strong negative opinion of Mr. Darcy after overhearing his dismissive remark about her at the Meryton ball.
- **Midpoint:** Mr. Darcy proposes to Elizabeth unexpectedly, and she rejects him, citing his role in separating Jane and Bingley and his treatment of Wickham.
- **Main Culmination:** Elizabeth learns the truth about Mr. Darcy's character and his role in rescuing her family from scandal, leading to a reconsideration of her feelings.
- **Third Act Twist:** Lady Catherine de Bourgh's visit to Longbourn, attempting to intimidate Elizabeth into refusing Darcy, inadvertently pushes Elizabeth to confront her true feelings.

3. "The King's Speech" (2010)

- **Inciting Incident:** Prince Albert (Bertie) reluctantly begins speech therapy with Lionel Logue after a disastrous speech at Wembley Stadium.

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- **Lock In:** Bertie commits to regular sessions with Lionel after an initial period of resistance, setting him on the path to overcoming his stammer.
- **Midpoint:** King George V dies, and Bertie becomes King George VI, heightening the stakes as he must now speak to the entire nation.
- **Main Culmination:** Bertie successfully delivers a pivotal speech, broadcast across the empire, declaring Britain's entry into World War II.
- **Third Act Twist:** The film concludes with the deepened friendship between Bertie and Lionel, and the realisation of Lionel's unorthodox but effective methods, cementing their partnership as integral to Bertie's success.

4. "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008)

- **Inciting Incident:** Jamal Malik, an 18-year-old from the slums of Mumbai, is one question away from winning the grand prize on the Indian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"
- **Lock In:** Jamal is detained and interrogated by the police, who believe he has cheated. He begins to recount his life story, explaining how he knew each answer.
- **Midpoint:** As Jamal narrates his past, the film shows key moments of his life that directly relate to the quiz questions, revealing his motivations and struggles.
- **Main Culmination:** Jamal answers the final question correctly, winning the grand prize, and becomes a national hero.
- **Third Act Twist:** Jamal reunites with Latika, the love of his life, highlighting the true reason behind his participation in the show – to find her and reunite.

5. "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (2001)

- **Inciting Incident:** Frodo Baggins inherits the One Ring from Bilbo and learns of its dark power from Gandalf.
- **Lock In:** Frodo commits to taking the Ring to Rivendell, thus beginning his perilous journey.
- **Midpoint:** The Council of Elrond decides to destroy the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom, forming the Fellowship and solidifying the mission.
- **Main Culmination:** The Fellowship faces numerous trials, culminating in the breaking of the Fellowship after Boromir's attempt to take the Ring and his subsequent death.
- **Third Act Twist:** Frodo and Sam continue their journey alone towards Mordor, realising the immense burden they carry, setting the stage for the next phase of their quest.