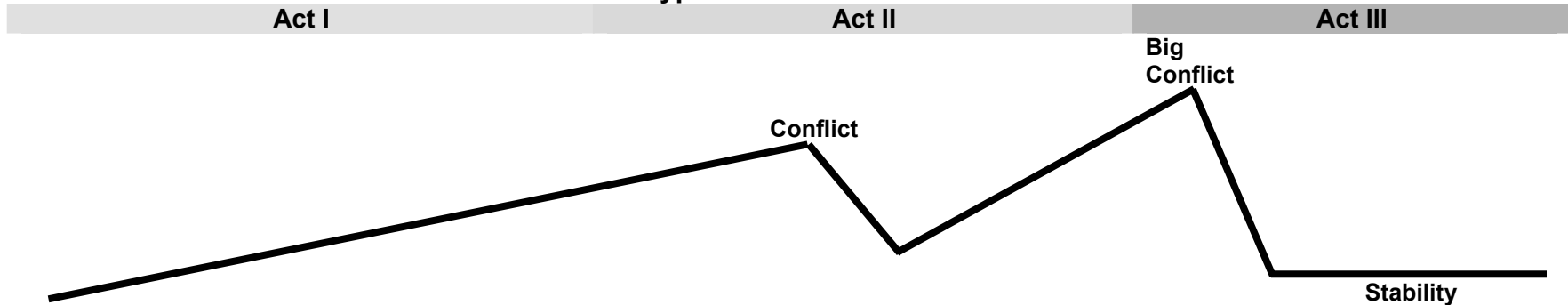


## Typical Three-Act Arc



→ Move across the table to see time-line development of the story. ↓ Move down the table to learn what should be included in the story at that point.

Set Up	Inciting Incident	Villain = Opposition	Turning Point	Problem Intensifies	Temporary Success	Reversal	Turning Point	Final Obstacle	Climax	Resolution
Genre	Serious Problem	Main Characters – Stick to four	New Direction	Digs a Deeper Hole		Dark Moment	Decision	Final Test	Hero Confronts Villain	Tie Up All
Pacing	Goal		Decision				Might Give Up	Huge Obstacle	Problem Resolved	Resolve Subplots
Mood	Motivation		Commitment				Might Try Harder	Win Lose Draw	Goal Met	MC Reflects on Results
			Cliffhanger						Goal Unmet	

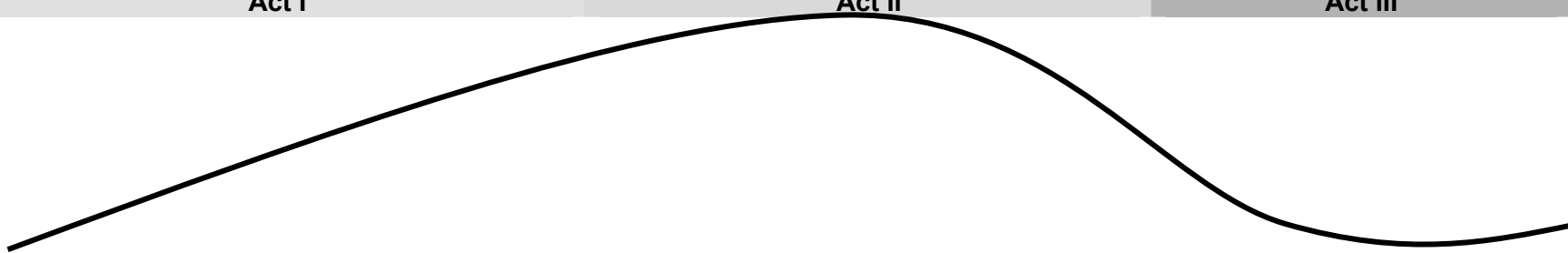
**Note:** This document is a condensation of ideas from various sources, including *Story Structure Architect* by Victoria Lynn Schmidt, Ph.D. I highly recommend Schmidt's book.

## Romance Arc

Act I

Act II

Act III



→ Move across the table to see time-line development of the story. ↓ Move down the table to learn what should be included in the story at that point.

Set Up	Inciting Incident	Villain – Opposition	Turning Point	Problem Intensifies	Temporary Success	Reversal	Turning Point	Final Obstacle	Climax	Resolution
Genre	Serious Problem	<b>Main Characters (MCs) – All Introduced</b>	<b>New Direction</b>	Digs a Deeper Hole	<b>Lovers are Brought Together</b>	Dark Moment	Decision	Final Test	Hero Confronts Villain	Tie Up All
Pacing	Goal		Decision			<b>Obstacles Force Them Apart</b>	Might Give Up	Huge Obstacle	Problem Resolved	Resolve Subplots
Mood	Motivation		Commitment		<b>Obstacles From Character?</b>	<b>Or They're Together But Pursued</b>	Might Try Harder	Win, Lose, Draw?	Goal Met	MC Reflects on Results
<b>Reason for Lovers to Meet</b>			Cliffhanger		<b>Obstacles From Plot?</b>				Goal Unmet	<b>Happily Ever After</b>
<b>Obstacles to Keep Them Apart</b>										<b>How Will Their Lives be Now?</b>

## Journey or Myth Arc



→ Move across the table to see time-line development of the story. ↓ Move down the table to learn what should be included in the story at that point.

Set Up	Inciting Incident	Main Character (MC) Trapped in Negative World	Turning Point	Problem Intensifies	Temporary Success	Total Reversal	Turning Point	Final Obstacle	Climax	Resolution
	Serious Problem	MC Not Growing	Pushed to Fork in Road	Digs a Deeper Hole		Dark Moment	Decision	Final Test	Receives Support?	Tie Up All
Pacing	Goal	MC Loses Everything Important	Decision to Reclaim Power			Faces Own Death: Real or Symbolic	Why Does MC Persist?	Huge Obstacle	Problem Resolved	Resolve Subplots
Mood			Friends Might Help/ Push			Greatest Fear Surfaces	Tools?	Win, Lose, Draw?	Cannot Go On?	MC Reflects on Results
			What is MC's Motivation?				Helpers?	Confronts Own Worse Fear		World Looks Different-- Maybe Even Perfect