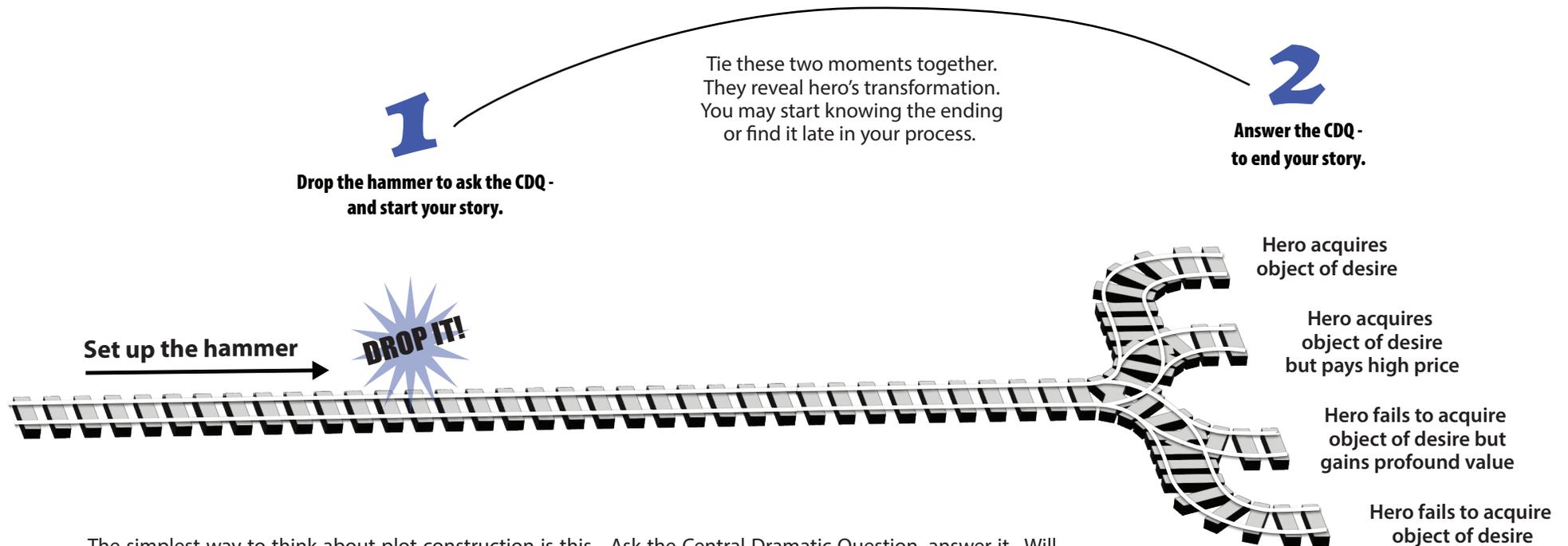


Basic Plot Construction

How to keep your story on track



The simplest way to think about plot construction is this - Ask the Central Dramatic Question, answer it. Will Hamlet kill the king? Yes.

1 To begin your story, you set up and drop the hammer to provoke the CDQ. By "set up" we mean you make your reader care about the CDQ.

2 Your story ends when the CDQ is *definitively* answered.

Your story is on track when the hero is in pursuit of their object of desire, off track if they're not.