Narrative Design: A Writer's Guide To Structure

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What do I mean by narrative structure? Some commentators define it very broadly. For them, structuring a narrative is the same thing as plotting a novel. You created your novel’s main plot, using my 10-step guide. You added one or more subplots to it and mixed well. So my definition of narrative structure is narrower. For me, it means manipulating the sequence of events in the plot (or the “narrative”) in order to tell a better story. Think of a plot in a novel as a straight line, with Event A at one end (the story’s beginning) and Event Z at the other (the ending). Furthermore, think of these events as all taking place in strict chronological order: A happens before B, B before C, and so on.