



Story Time Episode 8: The Big Thing That Happens Right Away

PILAR: Hey, it's me, Pilar. Welcome back. Last time, you learned how a script is formatted and you started writing some of your screenplay. Today, you'll start a part of the script called "The big thing that happens right away" -- and yes, we really do call it that. It's the part of the story where the protagonist decides to try to achieve or get their goal. Here is our friend and writer to talk a little more about the big thing that happens right away.

MARVIN: Hi, young storytellers. I'm Marvin Lemus. I'm a screenwriter, director, and all of these roles are different ways that I get to tell stories. And one of the most important parts of a story is the big thing that happens right away. It's the moment where we see why the story's protagonist decides to go after their goal. That goal could have been something that they've wanted for a long time that they wanted their entire lives but that they've never been inspired enough to go after it.

You know, in my own life, one of the first things that it reminds me of is when I was in high school. My senior year of high school, I had always thought about being a stand-up comedian. I always wanted to get up on stage and tell jokes in front of people. And in senior year, there was a talent show... Because I was like, "You know what? After this, I don't see them again. I'm going away to college. I'm moving so I might as well do this," and I did it and I killed. Everybody was cracking up. And it was so many people and it felt so great. And then I went to college



and I was able to have the confidence knowing I am good, I'm funny, I know how to write good jokes, and I put all that into my storytelling.

So when you're writing, keep in mind that you want to create an exciting and inspiring moment for your protagonist and to write it shortly after you introduce the protagonist and the setting, like right away, because the rest of the story is the character's journey to get to that goal.

Good luck writing. I hope this was helpful. And remember to have fun.

PILAR: Today, you can use your computer or a pencil and paper to write. Make sure that you have your outline and the first part of the script you wrote last time. Now, let's go to Vira, Curtis and Tamara in the Imaginarium.

VIRA: Hey, welcome back.

TAMARA: I'm assuming the big thing that happens right away is a pretty big part of a script.

VIRA: Oh, you're so right. Like Pilar said, it's the moment a character decides to go after their goal.

CURTIS: In order to go after their goal, they'll have to work hard and deal with obstacles all along the way. You want to show in that moment why your character wants their goals so badly.

TAMARA: So I already introduced my setting and character last time.

CURTIS: Great. The big thing that happens right away starts right after that.



- TAMARA: In the first part of my script, Inyo was in her backyard greeting everyone that walks by. She's very friendly.
- VIRA: Now what's something that would happen to make her want to pursue her goal?
- TAMARA: Inyo's goal is to find the best dog food in the galaxy.
- CURTIS: She's going to have to go on quite an adventure so let's give her a good reason for wanting to find it.
- VIRA: What would make someone go on an adventure for food?
- TAMARA: She wants to try as many new foods as possible because she eats the same thing every day.
- VIRA: How can you communicate that in your script?
- TAMARA: She'll say, "I know my food is good for me but I'm tired of eating the same food every day. There has to be other food options out there."
- VIRA: Perfect. But what makes her decide that today of all days she wants to explore the entire galaxy for different kinds of food?
- TAMARA: Oh, I got it. Her owner, me, is having a party with a variety of different people food from across the galaxy. That means Inyo wonder about different kinds of dog food.
- CURTIS: I like that.
- TAMARA: Yeah. Inyo decides that it's not fair that humans get to try all these different foods while she has to eat the same food every day.
- VIRA: Sounds like you're ready to start writing on your own.
- TAMARA: Yeah. I'm full of ideas but it's a lot easier to write when you're both here -- my super mentors.
- CURTIS: Well here's a few tips to help you write.



VIRA: Find a place that's quiet where you can focus.

CURTIS: Your story is already planned out in your outline. Keep it with you and look at it when you're not sure what to do next or just need some inspiration.

VIRA: Have a clear goal for what you're writing today. Pause and use the next page and a half or so to write your big thing that happens right away or the moment your character decides to go after their goal.

[Pause]

CURTIS: And keep in mind that you've got this and have fun. You've already come up with a really fun creative story idea. You're smart and writing the story that only you can tell.

TAMARA: Jeez, thanks. I do have this. This is my story. So I really like you guys but I told you, I got this.

VIRA: Yeah, totally. You got this. Of course, we know that.

CURTIS: Yeah, of course. We know you got this.

TAMARA: I'm ready to write on my own. It's cool if you two leave now.

CURTIS: Oh. Oh, **[unintelligible - 00:05:01]** that.

VIRA: Oh, sorry.

CURTIS: Of course, why would we stay here?

PILAR: To wrap it up, today, you learned about the big thing that happens right away and started writing that in your script. Don't worry about sharing anything with us this week. Just focus on writing. By the next video, try to complete your big thing that happens right away. See you next time when you'll continue writing your scripts and add key details to your story. Bye.



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