



# Build a Powerful Bio

SEQ SERIES

# Why is a strong bio so important?

A great story is ALWAYS about the journey of your character from broken to whole.

Therefore, the author must know (and communicate to the reader):

- Why your character is broken
- How it happened
- And what steps will lead him to wholeness



# Three Threads in a story:



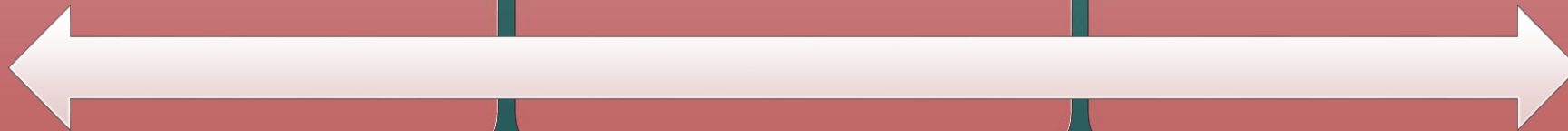
Spiritual



External



Emotional



# What is a Perfect Happily After Ending for our Character?

Triumph of External Goal

Greatest Dream realized

Healing of Emotional Wound

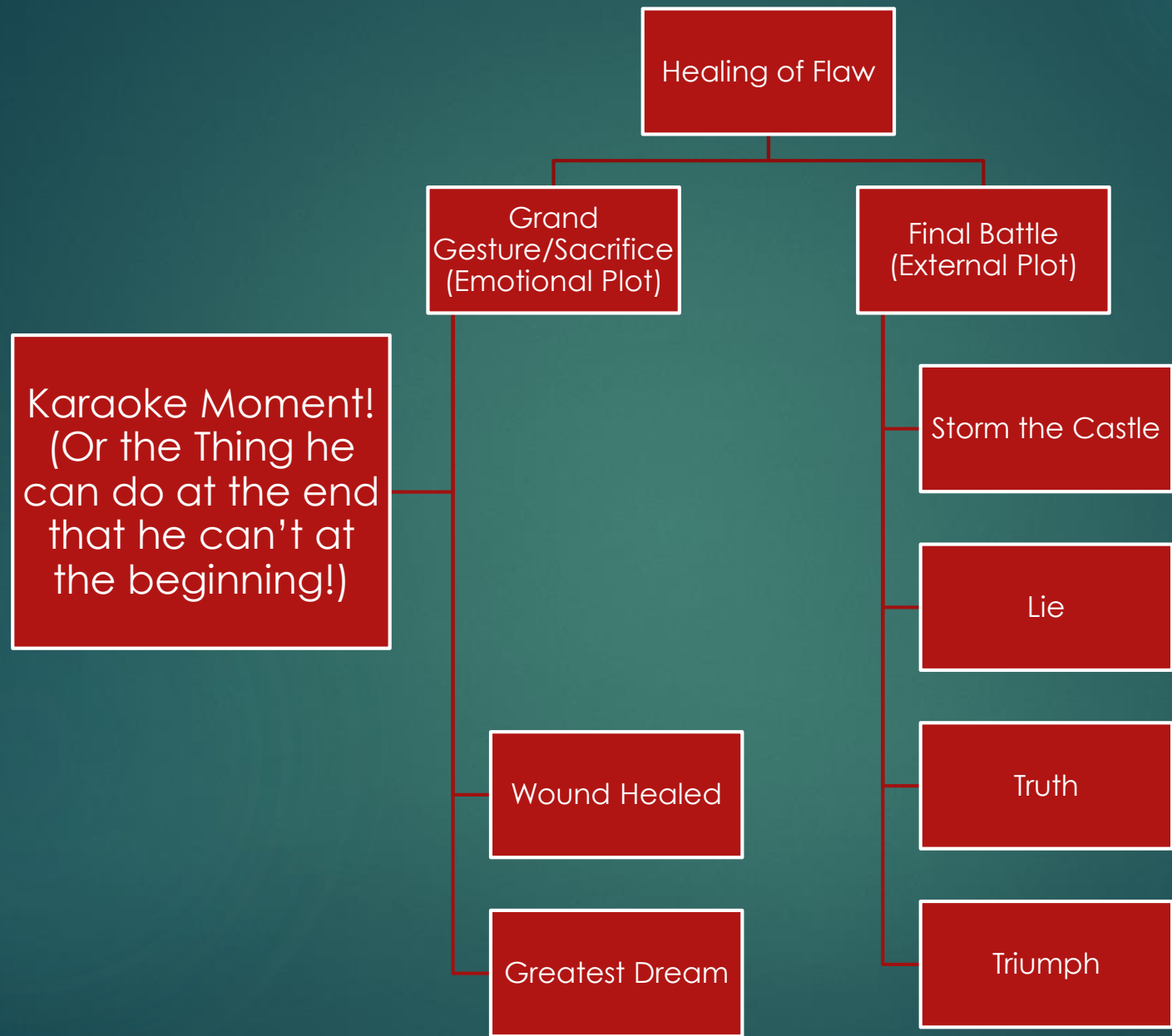
Black Moment Event (Greatest Fear)

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graph TD; A[Black Moment Event (Greatest Fear)] --> B[Black Moment Effect (Lie feels REAL)]; B --> C[Epiphany (Truth—end of Spiritual Plot)]; C --> D[Healing of FLAW];
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Black Moment Effect (Lie feels REAL)

Epiphany (Truth—end of Spiritual Plot)

Healing of FLAW



Therefore...to create the Perfect Ending, we must know:

His Dark Moment Story

His Greatest Dream

His Wound (Emotional/Romantic)

# Use the Story Equation





# How do we discover your Character's Fear, Lie, Wound?

Adjective

Noun

Character



Character

Dark Moment  
Story

# Let's Talk Oliver Queen

## Dark Moment?

His father sacrificing himself for Oliver.

- Fear?

That others in his family will die because of him.

- Wound?

Shame at cheating on his girlfriend.

- Lie?

He's dark and broken and can't be fixed (or happy)



# Use the Story Equation



# Secret Desire?

- ▶ To be worthy of his father's death
- ▶ To clear his family's name
- ▶ To not be broken anymore
  
- ▶ Even, to have a family. (we see this in season 2)

# What is his goal?

As your character walks on the page, he is fully formed and acting in his Fear, Lie, Wound. He is motivated by his values, as well as the SECRET DESIRE pulling him forward.

All these things, however, are revealed through Character Layering



Add in the other elements of the equation to find the Goals, Motivation and Conflict.



# Add depth to your character

Flaw

- External behavior that reveals his fears

Competing Values

- Two equally worthy values that create Inner Dissonance

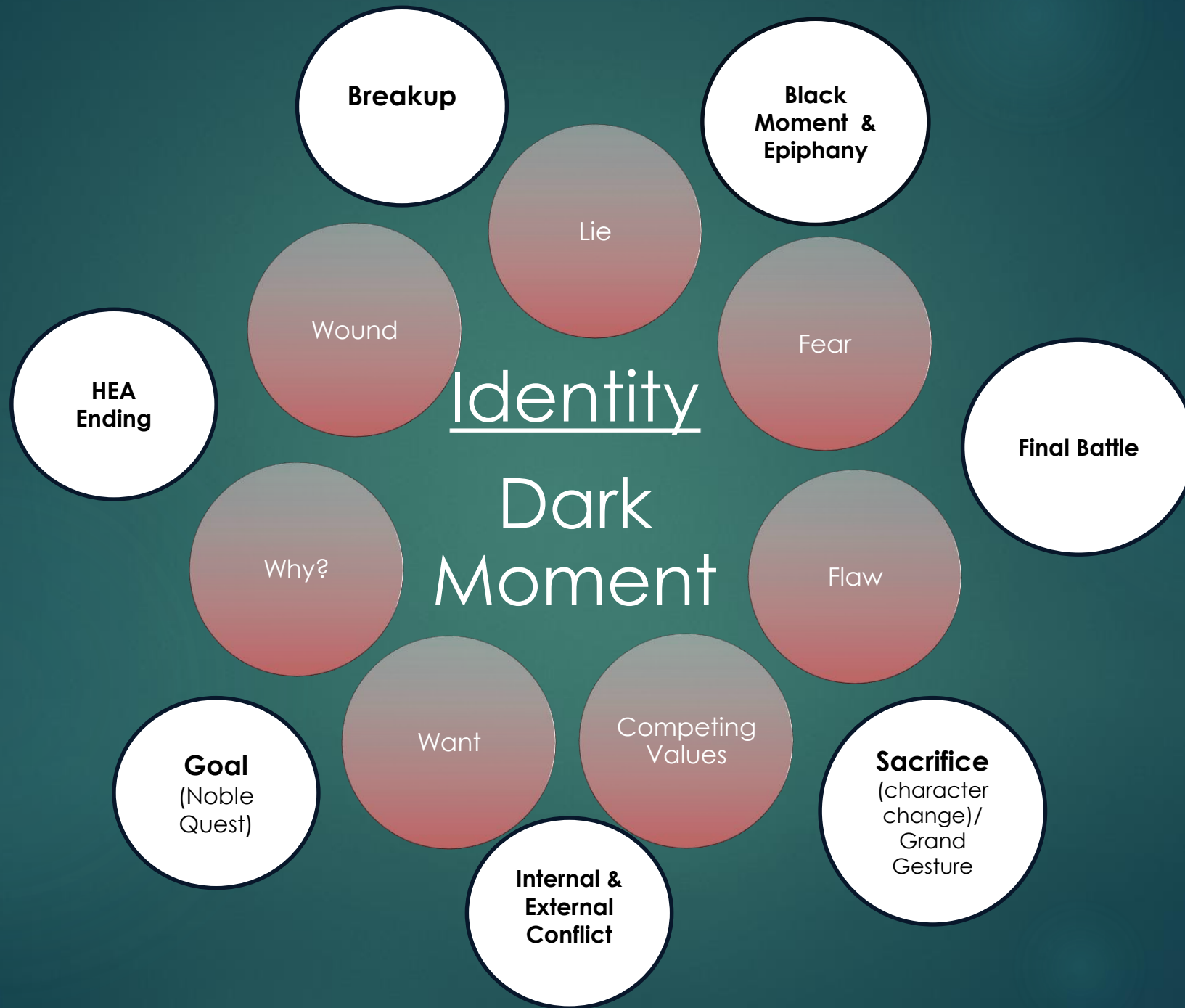
Why?

- Motivations for his actions

Want

- Secret Desire that surfaces into an External Goal





**Breakup**

**Black  
Moment &  
Epiphany**

Lie

Wound

Fear

**HEA  
Ending**

**Final Battle**

Identity

Dark  
Moment

Why?

Flaw

**Goal**  
(Noble  
Quest)

Want

Competing  
Values

**Sacrifice**  
(character  
change)/  
Grand  
Gesture

**Internal &  
External  
Conflict**

# The essential “stories” that help you discover your character

Dark Moment Story

Happiest Moment Story

The One who got away

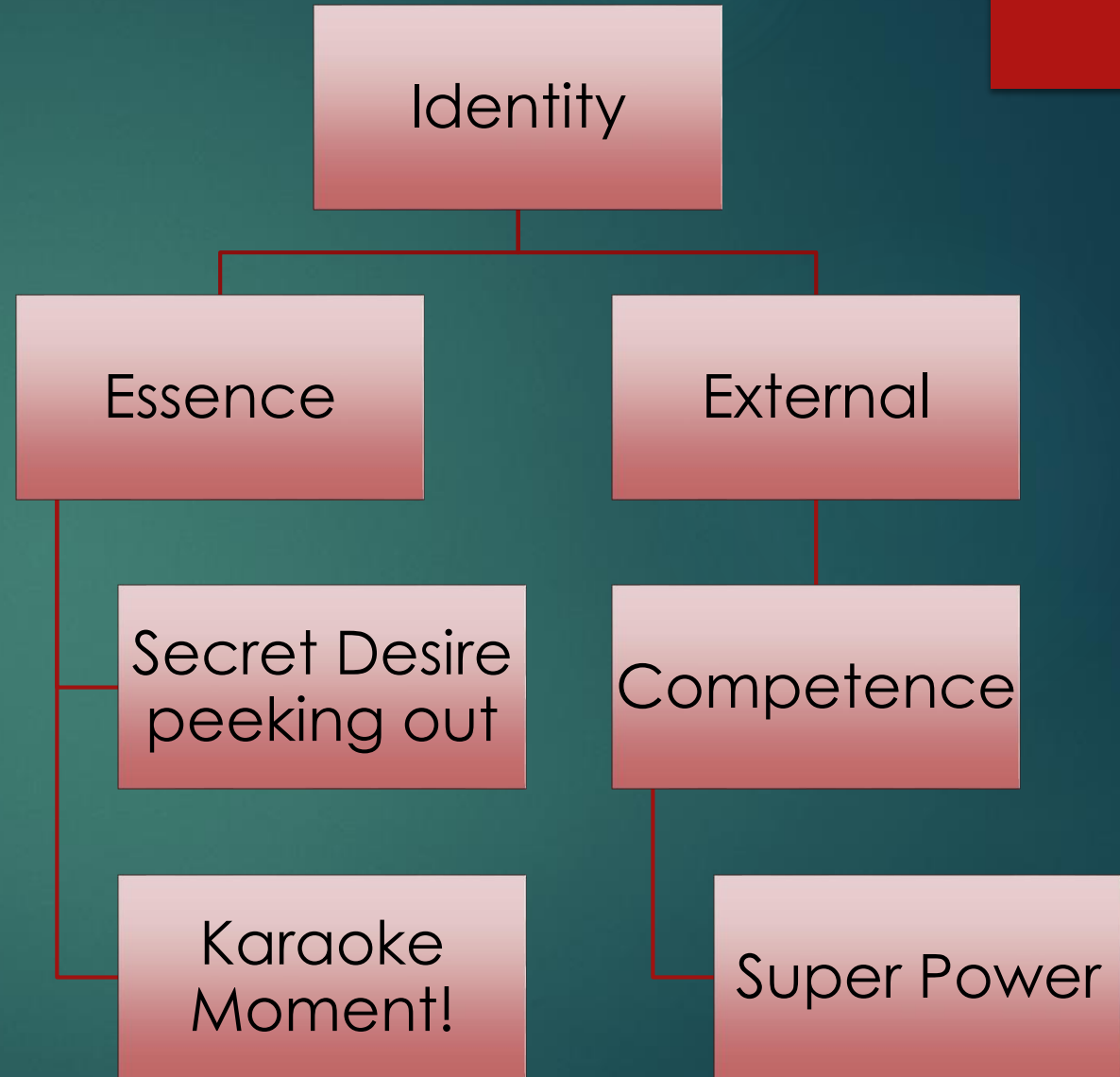
My Hero Story (or what I want to be when I grow up...or WHY I am who I am)


The time I nearly had what I wanted (and what stood in my way?)

The time I was scared to death (hint of Greatest Fear)

# Identity vs Essence

- ▶ What is your character's identity when the story opens?
- ▶ What is her essence? (who she is on the inside that he will become)
  - ▶ Hint: It's in the secret desire.
- ▶ Your character's Super Power? (What is he good at? What's her competence?)





What can he do in the  
end he can't do in the  
beginning?

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE JOURNEY?

# Make your reader care . . .

## Ask: What's at Stake? (Starts externally, becomes internal..or even romantic!)

- ▶ What does the protagonist want?
- ▶ What happens if he doesn't get it?
- ▶ What does the protagonist gain or lose in this story journey?



# Remember, as you start your story. .

- Start with intrigue or danger . . .
- Put your character in a sympathetic situation (one we could care about!)
- Then, slowly begin to unlayer them...



Next week: How to build the right layers...

And then reveal your character along the way...

(Which we'll learn about NEXT week!)



**GO!**

**WRITE SOMETHING  
BRILLIANT!**