**FIND YOUR STORY ARC**

**Even though you’ve been smart about your research and have found out pretty much everything you need for your novel, you can still struggle to figure out the arc that gives it a sense of narrative drive and inevitability.**

**Here is an exercise to help you brainstorm precise starting and ending scenes that will give you the container for that important story you want to tell. Try out several answers and see if one floats to the surface.**

1. What is your current opening scene? What specifically happens in it, and why did you choose it?
2. What is your current ending scene (if you have one)? What happens in it, and how does it tie back to the opening scene in some way?
3. Think of three other possible opening and closing scene pairs. Don’t write them out, just describe them in a few sentences. Which of all of these pairs (what you have and the three additional ones) really gets to the heart of your protagonist’s arc and the arc of the story? Which one best illustrates the point you’re trying to make in your book? What, if anything changes when you consider a new opening and closing scene?