

Plot Point 2

We see the Hero's flaw in relation to the Stakes Character. The stakes character is the face that represents all of the people the bad guys are victimizing. It's usually someone the hero feels very deeply about.

- In DIE HARD, Bruce Willis is trying to save the hostages, but the stakes character is his wife.
- In STAR WARS, Luke is trying to destroy the Death Star and save the rebel base, but the stakes character is actually Princess Leia.

In this plot point, we see what's wrong with the hero's life via the life of the stakes character. The stakes character usually has the qualities the hero needs to complete his arc.

- In STAR WARS, Luke is stuck on Uncle Owen's farm, milking space cows and fixing fences when he really wants to go the Academy, shoot some Stormtroopers and have great adventures. Leia is the stakes character; she's doing everything Luke dreams of doing, out in space, blasting Stormtroopers. Through her, we see Luke's flaw -- he's stuck on the farm -- even though we have yet to meet him.
- In DIE HARD, John McClane is a New York cop who gets no respect, while his wife, Holly, is respected by everyone. We learn John's flaw through her.
- In E.T., Elliot's family has been abandoned by Elliot's father, however Elliot's response has become inwardly focused. He has no real connection to his brother and sister, nor his mother, as is shown by his insensitive comment to her about Dad having run off with another woman.