

The Story Map, Advanced

Find the Turn in your story, then calibrate the telling so it reaches two different listeners at once without splitting in two.

Find the Turn

The situation

What's true before anything changes — the setup the listener starts in.

The Turn

Write the one or two sentences where something changed — the line you crossed, the thing you couldn't unsee.

Check the build

Does everything before the Turn build toward it, and everything after flow from it? Note what to cut.

Calibrate for Two Listeners

Listener 1

Name the first listener you most need this story to reach (e.g. the Caregiver).

Listener 2

Name the second listener, sitting in the same room (e.g. the Sage or the Ruler).

The threaded line

Write the one precise, checkable line — a number, a source, a rule — you'd add for the second listener without breaking the story for the first.

Before you deliver it

Every listener could hear the whole thing and find nothing false

The calibrated line is true, not just strategically placed

If I couldn't find a Turn, I located the real one — I didn't invent a dramatic one

Calibration is threading true things through one honest story. If your added line for one listener would embarrass you in front of the other, you haven't calibrated — you've forked, and forked stories get caught.