Growth at the Edge of Competence



By Kiri Jorgensen

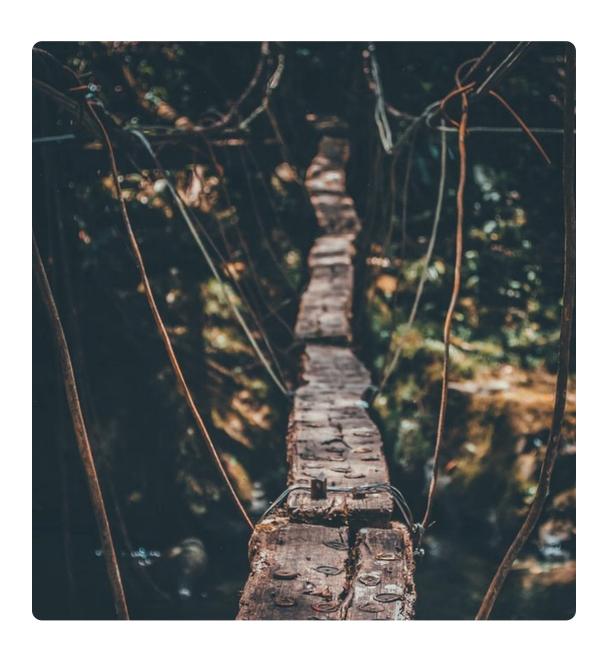
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Identify Your Protagonist's Risk Tolerance

Think about your main character's tolerance for risk in each of the 5 categories:

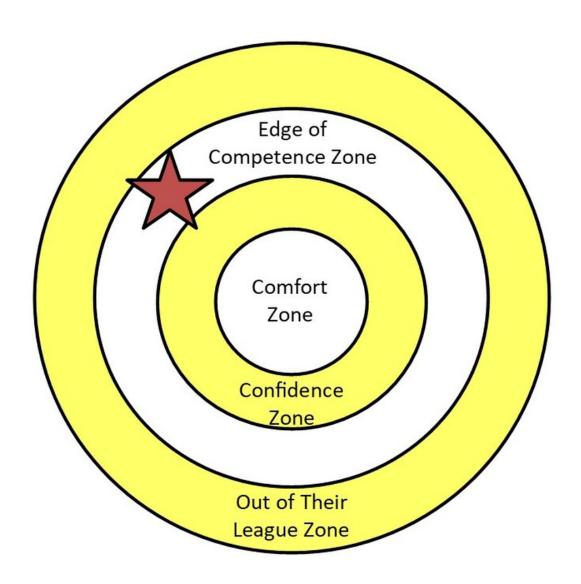
- Physical Risk Social Risk Emotional Risk
- Intellectual Risk Spiritual/Moral Risk

Now rank each area of risk from 1 to 5, with 1 being the easiest risks to take, and 5 being the hardest. What's their most challenging area?



Push Them to the Edge of Competence

Don't let your main character stay in their comfort zone! Give them opportunities to stretch outside their confidence zone, and all the way to the edge of competence. That's the only place authentic growth happens.



	Authentic Agency
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Risks That Put Them Where They Need To Be

Identify the area of risk that is the most challenging for your protagonist.
Now, push them in that risk area. Think of 7 situations that would push them to the edge of their competence, but not too far beyond.
What might motivate them to willingly seek that edge?
Which of these 7 situations work well with your story?
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Authentic Agency -

Make The Growth Authentic

Every character needs to grow and change through the story. Pushing them to the edge of their competence in their areas of weakness will bring authentic growth. It also brings authentic plotting. The character themselves will drive the plot, instead of the other way around.

