



# Pages 43-51 NOTES

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**The protagonist of a screenplay is usually the leading character, but this does not define the protagonist's function within a story.**



**The chief  
characteristic of  
the protagonist is  
a desire.**



**A good protagonist  
arouses a strong  
emotional response  
from the audience.**



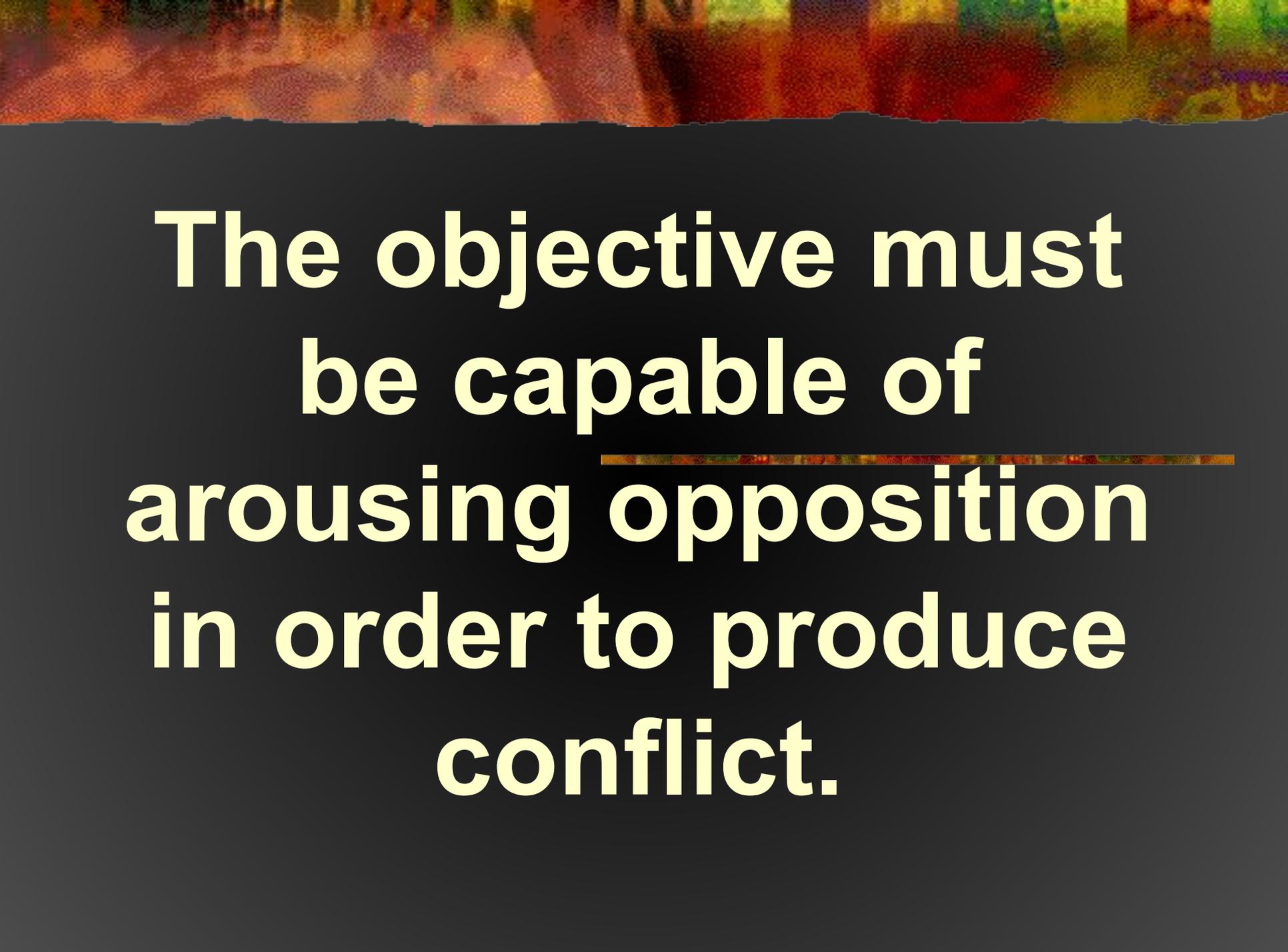
**A sympathetic protagonist must have an undesirable side if any tension is to be created with audience members concerning whether he or she will do whatever it takes to achieve the desired goal.**



**In feature films,  
the protagonist  
is almost always  
the starring role.**



**There can only be  
one main  
objective for the  
film to have unity.**



**The objective must  
be capable of  
arousing opposition  
in order to produce  
conflict.**



**The nature of the objective is a leading factor in determining the attitude of the audience towards the protagonist and his or her opposition.**



**Conflict is one element  
that seems to be an  
essential ingredient of  
every forceful dramatic  
work, on stage or on  
film.**



**Conflict is the  
very engine that  
propels the story  
forward,  
providing energy  
and movement.**



**Conflict is actually  
created not by histrionics  
and excessive behavior,  
but by character wanting  
something that is difficult  
to get or achieve.**



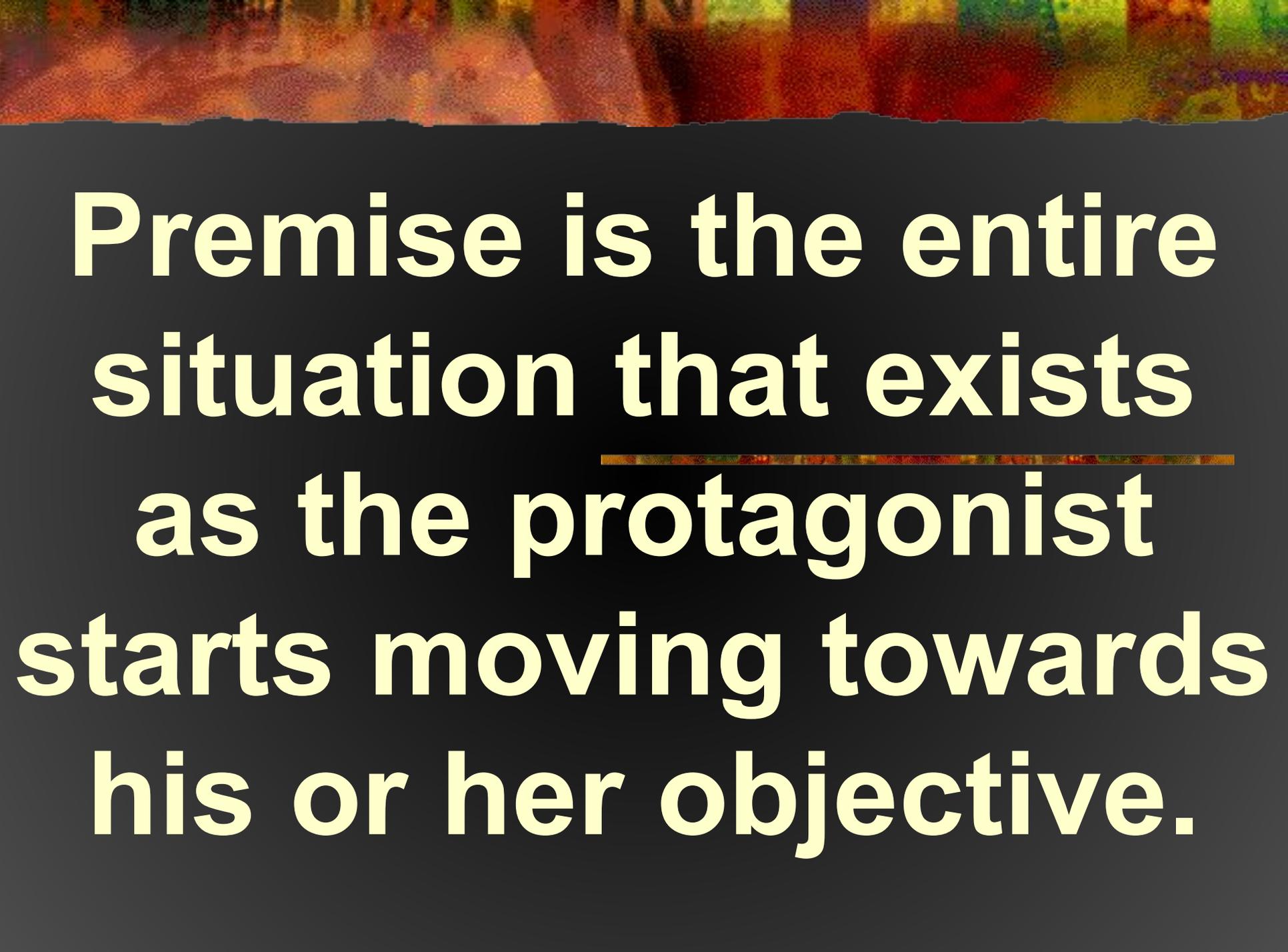
**If the protagonist and his objective constitute the first two important elements in the construction of a story, the various obstacles collectively constitute the third.**



**The protagonist and  
the obstacles he or  
she encounters  
must be fairly  
evenly matched.**



**Although the unity of a story depends on there being but one main objective, there is no threat to unity from the use of multiple obstacles to the achievement of that obstacle.**



**Premise is the entire situation that exists as the protagonist starts moving towards his or her objective.**



**A satisfactory premise  
always contains the  
potential of conflict and  
some pertinent and  
specific information about  
the main character.**