

# creation of a novel outline via plotto

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First, I pick at random a “Conflict Situation” (no. 900, pg 178)

## 900

(1330)(1350)

*A's imagination leads his mind astray, and in seeking emancipation from fancied misfortunes he is plunged into real misfortunes.*

(150)(634)(1348a)

So far, so good. The numbers **above** the Conflict Situation text (ie, (1330) and (1350)) are suggested possible plot “lead-ups” to this situation for my mysterious yet emancipation-seeking protagonist **A**. The three suggestions **below** it (ie, (150), (634) and (1348a)) are suggested “carry-ons.” I have the choice of working forward (via a carry-on), or working backward (via a lead-up) from this plot element. Let’s say I decide to work forward. I must pick between options (150), (634), and (1348a).

Let’s say I pick (634):

## 634

(130)(480)(732)(776)(1350)

*A, imagining he sees a fast motor car almost upon him, leaps in front of a car that is not imaginary and is instantly killed.*

(762)

Well, this is an unfortunate turn of events. Just when I started liking **A**, he's suddenly killed. But there is a single follow-up listed, no 762. What happens next?

**(762)**

(130)(480)(732)(776)(1350)  
*A, after his death, receives the friendship of A-8—for which he had vainly struggled in life*  
(868)(1423)

Ah—interesting! It turns out that **A** is not my protagonist at all! Instead, it is another character, **A-8**.

Let's see what happens next. I'll choose (868):

**(868)**

A-8, destroying a letter in which his friend, A, declares he is about to commit suicide, makes it appear that A-2 died instead from a contagious disease.  
(906)(904)

Intriguing. But let's pause here, and instead return to the place we started. As you recall, we began with

**900**

(1330)(1350)  
*A's imagination leads his mind astray, and in seeking emancipation from fancied misfortunes he is plunged into real misfortunes.*  
(150)(634)(1348a)

what happened before that? What led **A**'s mind being led astray? I'll choose (1330):

(1330)

*A, dabbling in things he does not understand, seeks to accomplish wonderful results, but succeeds only in making himself ridiculous.*

And why did he do that?

(853)

*A, a mediocre person, undergoes a weird experience which inspires him with grandiose ideas of his powers and abilities*

I'll stop here.