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THINGS ARE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE

It's important that stories have rising tension, this helps to keep the reader gripped. So here is an exercise to explore this idea.

Ask group members to plan a story using the following steps.

1. Think of a character, and make sure they are in a situation where something bad could occur.
2. Define an incident that would put the character in trouble.
3. Think of an incident or situation that would occur to make things even worse for this character.
4. Think of the worst thing that could happen to that character.
5. Is there a story resolution that comes to mind? Would the character have changed or learned something from their ordeal?

The group might use this exercise to discuss conflict and drama in fiction. Does every story need the stakes to be raised?