

Relationship Arcs *Checklist*

When it comes to relationships, the best ones go through a journey, just like your characters. We call these relationship arcs, and readers love them.

If you get them right.

That's why we made this Dabble Premium resource, the Relationship Arcs Checklist. Make sure you have the essential beats for:

- Growing Bond Arc
- Deteriorating Bond Arc
- Redemption Arc
- Love Triangle Arc
- Transformational Arc

Save these checklists and make sure you're writing the best relationships possible!

Growing Bond *Arc*



Initial Contact

First interaction, often neutral or slightly conflicted



Building Trust

Shared experiences that build trust and camaraderie



Deepening Connection

Significant events that reveal vulnerabilities



Solidifying Relationship

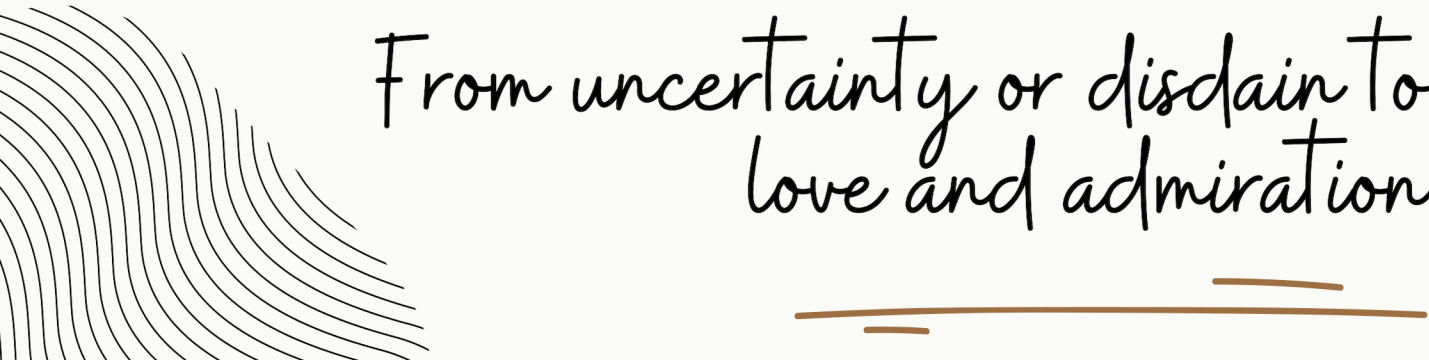
Importance of relationship reinforced by a major event



Continued Growth

Ongoing stressors and growth strengthening the relationship

*From uncertainty or disdain to
love and admiration*



Deteriorating Bond *Arc*



Cracks Appear

Initial signs of strain or disagreement



Growing Conflict

Escalation of issues, increased instances of conflict



Major Betrayal or Setback

A pivotal event causing significant damage



Fallout and Consequences

Dealing with the aftermath, attempts to save the bond



Resolution or Breakdown

Final outcome, whether it ends in a permanent split or a tentative reconciliation



Pressure, differences, and betrayal

Redemption Arc



Intro to Conflict

The relationship's initial conflict or moral dilemma



Escalation and Crisis

Climax of moral challenge or the need for sacrifice



Act of Redemption

The pivotal act that defines the arc



Aftermath and Impact

Consequences in relationship and the larger plot



New Equilibrium

How the relationship stabilizes post-redemption



*Sacrifice, change, and
earned forgiveness*

Love Triangle



Initial Attraction and Setup

Attraction or spark moments igniting the romance



Competing Relationships

Explore strengths, weaknesses, and indecision



Escalating Feelings

Higher stakes introduced as the push and pull increases



Moment of Truth

Critical event forces the character to make a choice



Resolution and Consequences

Explore the emotional fallout, including feelings of betrayal, security, and relief

Indecision and conflict pulls a character in two directions

Transformational

Arc



Beginning Influence

Resistance or acceptance of the new influence



Progressive Change

Gradual changes in beliefs, behavior, or goals due to the relationship



Critical Turning Point

A decisive moment that cements or forces change



Revealing the New Self

Embrace changes and reveal the new them



Future Path

Look ahead to what the future might look like for the changed character and their relationships



Fundamentally changed
because of another

