

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Peripeteia**



# Peripeteia

Peripeteia is a turning point in a story in which the protagonist's circumstances turn from good to bad. Peripeteia contains elements of both surprise and inevitability for the reader/audience, and should be the result of the protagonist's own actions.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each short plot summary. Identify the peripeteia.

1. A man has been a successful criminal his entire life. He has a nice home, a loving family, and a spotless public reputation. Although he is nearing retirement age, he decides to plan one last job: a bank robbery. Everything goes well right up till the moment of escape, when he finds out that his getaway driver has become a police informant and has betrayed him. The man is arrested and spends the rest of his life in jail.

What is the peripeteia?

How is it a surprise?

How is it inevitable?