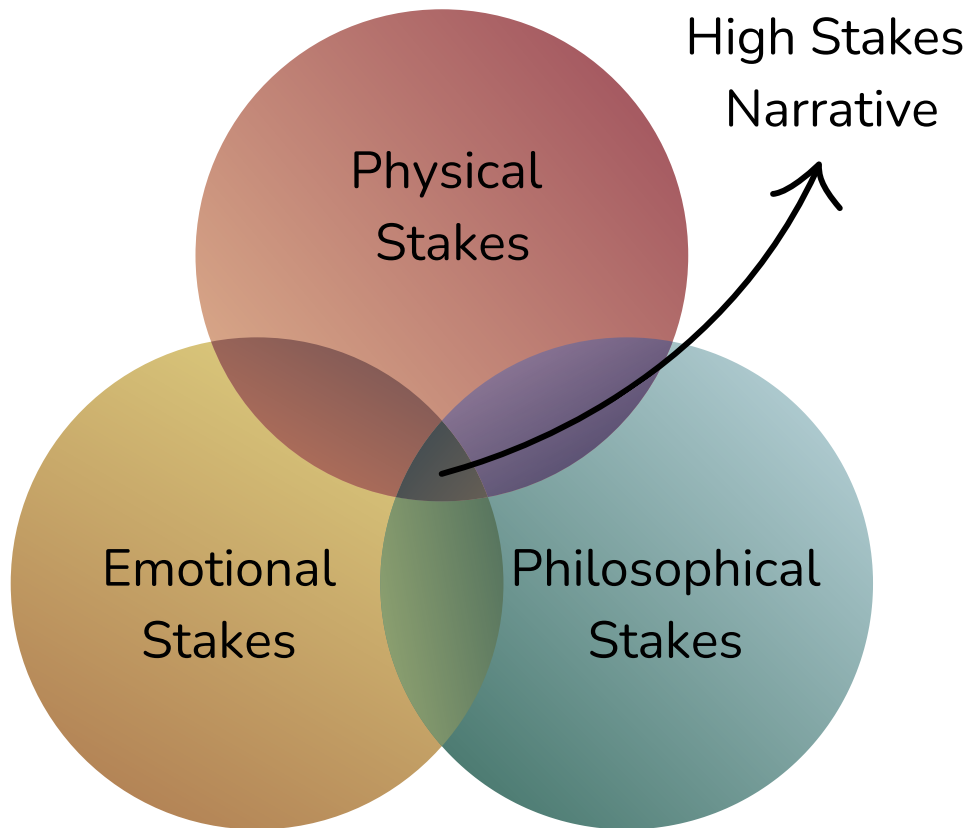


# The "Stakes Interrogator" Checklist

# CELT<sub>X</sub>



## The 5 Core Questions

1. The Physical: What is the immediate, tangible threat?

*If no one is in danger of losing life, limb, or property, how does this scene move the plot?*

2. The Emotional: If the protagonist fails, what is the "Cost of Shame"?

*Whose opinion do they value most in this scene? How does that relationship break if they lose?*

3. The Philosophical: What "Truth" is being tested?

*Is this a battle of Freedom vs. Security? Honesty vs. Survival? If there is no moral argument, the scene is a filler.*

4. The Escalation: How is the situation worse at the end of the scene than the beginning?

*If the stakes are the same at 2:00 PM as they were at 2:05 PM, the scene is static.*

5. The Ticking Clock: Why must this be resolved right now?

*If the character can just "try again tomorrow," the audience will tune out.*