

gathering phase.

## ***ZEROING IN ON YOUR “CONTENDER”***

### ***PROTAGONIST’S UNIQUE POV***

Living day-to-day, we don’t often recognize opportunities to alter our own personal viewpoint. That’s not to say that you’ve walked through the world in a self-centered daze. Sometimes a sudden loss will force you into seeing the world anew. But seeing the world from your “intended” protagonist’s vantage point adds an important layer as you go forward into your story. It’s absolutely necessary to have a sense of what *point of view* you’ll need in order to laser-focus your premise.

If you’re a gregarious people-watcher, you may not have thought about what it’s like for your character to perceive the same surroundings through the eyes of someone who’s very self-conscious or shy. Beginning to acknowledge that your character may need a different POV from *you* is important. Shifting *your* point of view is a big part of diving into the world of your character.

Because of your new whims of perception, the world may also assume a mirroring quality. Don’t be surprised if this Prep Phase research—the unearthing process—suddenly draws you to people, places, or things similar to what you need for your character, supporting the notions swirling around in your head.

One of the authors was working on a story set at a racetrack.