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## Getting to the Point

Russell Walker  
*College of DuPage*

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# Getting to the Point

Russell Walker

Mark Twain once said of one of his books (and this is a warning, I think) that “persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.” I guess some writers think that there are just some stories that don't have a point, or a purpose, or even a single reason for existing. Then again, some would argue that it's precisely a story's lack of a point that gives it a point. Point being: having no point is the point. Get the point? Personally, I've always thought that everything has a meaning, a purpose, or a reason to exist. I've gotten involved in some pretty pointed arguments over the matter . . .

You see, while I think all stories really have a point, others tell me that sometimes a point-less story is just a pointless story. I usually just brush it off and ask, “So, what's your point?”

They say: *We point to the point that a story need not have a point.*

I say: Then, without a point, why would the author write it?

*To make money.*

So, then the point in not having a point is to mask the fact that his or her point is to make money? That's the point.

*Yes, that is the point.*

Well, that IS a point.

*Point taken.*

So, you get the point?

*What's your point?*

My point is that some stories which DON'T have a point DO have a point.

*Isn't that beside the point?*

No, that IS the point!

*This is pointless!*

That's precisely the point!

*Well, what's the point in wasting our time?*

To prove a point, or lack thereof -- for an author can purposely lack a point to mask the point that his only point is pointing towards wasting the reader's time.

*What would be the point of that?*

The point would be to mask the point that he has no point that he is pointing to because his story is simply pointless.

*So the point is pointless?*

Somewhere around this point I usually have to quit, since my brain has melted and slid out my ears. After that we typically just stare at each other, confused as hell, silently wondering --

*What the hell was the point of all that!?*

You know what? Some stories really are pointless.