STORY BLUEPRINT



The actual progression of your book from beginning to ending.

A good story isn't just a collection of things happening. Each event should push the story somewhere. Use this worksheet to map the major turns, choices, setbacks, and discoveries that take your story from the first page to the final one.

01. THE STARTING POINT

Where does the story begin?

What is life-like for the protagonist before the story changes?



What does the protagonist want at this point?

02. THE INCITING INCIDENT

Something happens that makes the old normal impossible to maintain.

What happens?

Why can't the protagonist ignore it?



What changes because of this event?

03. THE FIRST TURNING POINT

This is where the protagonist truly enters the story.

What decision do they make?

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♡

♡

♡

♡

What are they committing themselves to?

◇

◇

◇

◇

What could they lose by making this choice?

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04. THE RISING ACTION

Now make things harder.

Complication 01

What happens?

How does the protagonist respond?

Complication 02

What happens?

How does the protagonist respond?

Complication 03

What happens?

How does the protagonist respond?

05. THE MIDPOINT

Something changes the direction of the story.

What major revelation, victory, loss, betrayal, or discovery happens?

Note

What does the protagonist understand now that they didn't before?

Add title

How does this change what they want?

Note

06. EVERYTHING FALLS APART

The pressure is closing in.

What goes wrong?

What does the protagonist lose?

What choice or mistake makes things worse?

07. THE LOWEST POINT

What is the moment when the protagonist feels closest to failure?

What are they forced to confront about themselves?

What makes them keep going?

08. THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

Everything you've built leads here.

What does the protagonist have to face?

-

What are they fighting for?

-

What choice will define them?

-

What will happen if they fail?

-

09. THE ENDING

How does the central conflict resolve?

1.

What does the protagonist choose?

1.

What has changed since the beginning?

1.

10. THE AFTERMATH

The story doesn't necessarily end when the conflict does.

What does the protagonist's life look like now?

What relationships have changed?

What feeling should the final scene leave the reader with?

THE STORY IN 9 BEATS

Fill this in as simply as possible.

1. Beginning:

2. Inciting Incident:

3. First Turning Point:

4. Rising Action:

5. Midpoint:

6. Everything Falls Apart:

7. Lowest Point:

8. Final Confrontation:

9. Ending:

THE ONE-LINE TEST

Complete this sentence:

My story begins when _____

and follows _____

as they try to _____

but _____

until they must _____

before _____

and ultimately _____

QUICK CHECK

- ◻ Something changes early
- ◻ The protagonist makes meaningful choices
- ◻ Each major event creates a consequence
- ◻ The conflict gets harder
- ◻ Something changes at the midpoint
- ◻ The protagonist reaches a low point
- ◻ The final confrontation connects to the central conflict
- ◻ The ending shows what changed

REMEMBER

If you know where your story is going, you can make every chapter earn its place.