



If you are writing: fantasy, science-fiction, magical realism, dystopian, or historical fiction story – really ANY story with a world that is different from the one the reader lives in – the world you create will impact every aspect of your storytelling.

Writers often want to skip this step if they are not writing fantasy (or one of the other genres listed above), however, I would encourage you to spend some time thinking about each of the numbered paragraphs below and how it might relate to your story, instead of assuming it doesn't assume that it does. Slow down and make sure you've answered these questions well before moving forward.

Worldbuilding

To get you started creating a believable world, you need to:

Define the fundamental realities of the world

- Time—Future or past?
- Universe—This universe or an alternate universe?
- History—How did this world come to be? Was there a war? a famine? a flood? What was the moment that changed everything for the people of this world.
- Magic and Superpowers—Do they exist? What are the rules that govern them? Who has the power to use it? How do they acquire it?
- Environment—Is there oxygen, gravity? Is it light or dark? Pristine or polluted?
- Technology—What is the nature of technology? What impact does it have on society?
- Transportation—How do people get around?
- Food—How is it produced, distributed, controlled?
- Social realities:
 - Who holds power and why? Are there territorial boundaries? Tribes? Feuds?
 - Who or what is the enemy of the people in the story?

- What are the main qualities of the culture?
- What is the role of money? How is it acquired, spent? Who is rich and who is poor?
- How do people communicate? Is there a dominant language? Is there a special way to address leaders, poor people?
- The day-to-day realities of the world:
- Where do people work? What is the nature of their work?
- Where do people live?
- Is there a system of education?
- What do people do for play?