



Motley Writers Guild Basic Novel Writing Worksheet

Character:

- **Who** are they?

- What do they **want**?

Conflict:

- **Barrier** to getting what they want?

Stakes:

- What will **happen** if they don't get what they want?

Message:

- What do you want your reader to take away from the novel?

Plot:

- Tropes you want to include: (enemies to lovers, the chosen one, mistaken identity...)

- Plot twists you want to utilize:

Emotions you want to evoke...

- Overall

- At specific points



Motley Writers Guild Plot Worksheet

Act 1

- ☐ Beginning (Character/goal)

- ☐ Inciting incident (What happens to get the plot going)

- ☐ Plot point #1 (Character is active in the plot. They're choosing to engage)

Act 2 (ascending action)

- ☐ Conflict (What's preventing the character from succeeding immediately?)

- ☐ Obstacles (What kind of things set them back from progress?)

- ☐ Midpoint party/big twist (Halfway through the novel! Usually marked by a big reveal, or the character realizing they've been doing everything wrong thus far)

- ☐ Obstacles (What other kinds of things set them back from their new goals? Disaster usually strikes in this part of the novel)

- ☐ Plot point #2: Disaster (End of Act 2. Should mirror Plot Point #1)

Act 3 (resolution)

- ☐ Plot point #3: Failure/Pre-Climax (Also called "All Hope Is Lost". Final clash between protagonist and antagonist STARTS)

- ☐ Climax (The big events that lead to the protagonist "winning")

- ☐ End (Denouement/Resolution. What happens after the climax, how does the story wrap-up?)



Motley Writers Guild Emergency Preparedness Questions

Use if:

- ★ You've written yourself into a corner
- ★ You've deviated from your plan and don't know how to get back
- ★ You like to add some drama to your life

- Completely outlandish ideas to be used only if absolutely necessary.

- Which parts of your pre-planning worksheet could you insert into this scene? Emotions you wanted to evoke? Plot twists you could utilize?

- What's the scenes you know your story needs to be complete?

- What does your character need right now?

- What's the worst possible thing you could do to a character right now? Then DO IT.
