

Extended Project Qualification

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Introduction

The topic I've chosen for my Extended Project Qualification is to "Create a series of short stories about magic". Storytelling and writing have always intrigued me, but I've always lacked a firm motivation to write in the past. I believe this project can allow me to utilize that part of myself that is interested in writing and expand on it. By doing so, I supplement my academic experience with a different aspect of subjects; doing computer science, physics and mathematics as my three subjects with a literature-focused project on the side will give me a better rounded A-Level education. Perhaps this project would even be the event that sparks off my journey as a writer, or maybe I would feel differently about it afterwards, because I am certain I will learn something new about myself in this project.

This project is about writing a collection of short stories, it is very simple in its core concept. As with any writing process, I would have to carry out research before I write. I would conduct research into the writing process itself, and writing processes of other writers. I understand that every writer has their own process, and that this research would not necessarily change or form mine, but it will give me a general idea of how I plan on carrying out this project, and most importantly give me confidence in what I am doing.

I would conduct research into magic's relationship with religion and science throughout history, as well as a couple of selected disciplines. As my short stories are encompassing the notion of magic, I would first have to understand what magic is. There are numerous of definitions to magic, and for this project, magic is referred to as the power of apparently influencing events by using mysterious or supernatural forces. I believe that if I can understand enough about people's behavior and attitudes towards magic throughout history, I can understand what kind of role it played and therefore what role it could play in my world, making it more sophisticated and realistic.

I would also conduct research into specific realms of knowledge which are plot-intensive. For example, one of my stories will be about murderers and what it means to be a murderer. I would have to research whether a murderer is born or raised, and the different types of murderers. I believe this area of research will not be as thorough as the other two, but they will provide me with base layer knowledge and most importantly, a correct impression to stem my stories upon.

After carrying out my research, I would be able to plan out my stories and start writing. I would write up a storyline before anything else, complemented by main character profiles and plot points. This will act as the backbone of my story and my first draft will be based on that. After writing my initial drafts, I would of course read through and edit bits that I feel necessary. Once I am satisfied, I would like to get my first reader's opinions on my stories and consider whether or not I have to change anything before the last draft.

This is a daunting task for me, if I'm being honest. Most of my peers have chosen dissertations and investigations, which are perhaps more straightforward than doing artefact.

And obviously there is the factor of time; writing stories from scratch is not something I can finish within a term. But I have faith in this project, because I am not starting from scratch. I have wanted to do this ever since I picked up my first read. And now that the perfect opportunity has come to my door step, I believe I would do everything that I can to bring out my best work.

Proposal

Section One: Title, objective, responsibilities

Title or working title of project (in the form of a question, commission or design brief):

Create a series of short story about magic

Project objectives (eg, what is the question you want to answer? What do you want to learn how to do? What do you want to find out?):

I want to conduct research into different forms of magic throughout history

I believe that all things change with time, and that magic is the same. I want to see how the concept of magic changes as time goes on and what lead to these changes. I also want to look into key points and artefacts which changed magic, such as folklores, the witch hunt and perhaps the Arthurian Legend. I also want to take a look into how different cultures develop their own kind of magic, such as the Voodoo from Afro-Caribbean origins and golems from Jewish folklore.

I want to conduct research into the writing process and fiction writing

I understand that there is no definite formula to writing, every writer has their own style and their own routine. I want to understand the process writers use to weave their thoughts into words on paper, and hopefully in that process, help myself gather my thoughts and grasp some idea of how to best carry out this writing project.

I want to find out if it's possible for there to be a world where science and a supernatural force such as magic can coexists and explore what it would be like

Science is the rule of the world, of which everything has to adhere and obey. Arthur C. Clarke said that magic is just science we don't understand yet, and I wonder how they would co-exist with each other. Perhaps magic and science is more alike than we think, that there would be a construct, almost methodical, of which magic governs this world like how science does to ours.

I want to explore concepts in our society through a supernatural lens

I want to see how a supernatural element would change our society, or rather whether or not it'll change at all. Perhaps it would just amplify some aspects, or perhaps it would conceal and eliminate some norms we take for granted. I am intrigued by the idea of how human interactions, especially hatred, would develop in the presence of magic, which is something I would hopefully be able to explore.

Section Two: Reasons for choosing this project

Reasons for choosing the project (eg, links to other subjects you are studying, personal interest, future plans, knowledge/skills you want to improve, why the topic is important):

One of my biggest passion is storytelling, or rather a good construct of a world in which an interesting story takes place. I would like to further develop this passion in my future career, perhaps not something as ambitious as being a director or a producer, but rather a writer.

I first got into reading when my friends in primary school peer pressured me into the Percy Jackson series. I wasn't really interested at first, but after a while, it was intriguing and fascinating how I can escape our reality and enter a stranger land, to be completely carefree of the ties of this world for the short while of delving into the books. I am also charmed by the idea of intertwining history with fiction, which got me into the Time Riders and the Dan Brown books. The idea of history not being what we thought it to be was mind blowing and infinitely incredible to me, whether in books or movies or even television shows. After a while, I was motivated to construct my own stories. At first in my mind, then slowly in audio memos, and then in words. I feel like words are the best way I can record my stories, which was why I chose this task for this Extended Project Qualification.

I will be taking Computer Science, Physics and Mathematics as my three A Level subjects. They are by no means anyhow connected to literature and writing, which is what, in my opinion, makes this topic most suitable as an Extended Project Qualification for me. Considering how polarizing my subjects and this project is, I believe this could provide me with an all-round A Level experience, involving me in both the humanity side and the science side. I would also be able to use my scientific and logical thinking in my project. Magic has always been portrayed as a supernatural force, with little to no rules binding it. I would be able to construct a clear and systematic power structure in which magic exists in and respects, revising this concept of supernatural uncertainty around magic.

Finally, I wanted this project to be the kick starter for my journey as a writer. I've always said that I want to write, but never really writing anything more than a few pages. I believe this project would help me develop the right motivation and more importantly, practice commitment to a task. This is an ambitious topic, and a time consuming one at that, but I believe I would be able to carry this out to the end. I believe this project will test my perseverance, my time management ability, and my organization skills. These skills would be substantially crucial for stepping out into the real world in two years time.

Section Three: Activities and timescales	
Activities to be carried out during the project (eg, research, development and analysis of ideas, writing, data collection, numerical analysis,	Total time: 52 weeks Deadline: Nov 2021

rehearsal techniques, production meetings, production of final outcome, administration, evaluation, preparing for the presentation, etc):	Pre-deadline: July 2020
Research Planning: I am going to mind-map out all the areas I would want to look into and take time to research. This part of the research would go in as an index page for my research manual, which I will use for later references throughout the writing process.	2 weeks
Research: I am going to look, mainly on the Internet but also from books and articles, for information relevant to my topic. I will compile these information into a sort of manual for when I plan out the plot and build the world, so I can refer back to it.	4 weeks
Writing planning: I am going to plan out my main plot points and characters. I am going to create the world/s in which my story is set in. I would have to make sure everything is logical and has a clear cause and effect relationship. I would have to make myself understand what message/s it is I'm trying to convey to the reader. I would have to do all of the above understanding who my target readers are and what they are intrigued in. I'm going to compile my plot/s into a timeline so I can refer back to it when I'm writing. This would also be when I plan out how I want to, if at all, link my stories together.	6 weeks
First draft: I am going to make use of the plot timeline and the world building manual and put my story into words. I expect to make quite a lot of mistakes during this draft but the most important thing is that I get all my ideas into words, anything else can be amended in later drafts.	15 weeks
Second draft: I am going to review the first draft and focus on condensing the writing into a skeleton of what it needs to be while still carrying the right tone. Also going to focus on making the dialogue seem natural and harmonic. The second draft would make sure that the extra writing from the first draft would slow the tempo, therefore trimming it all down first.	6 weeks
Third draft:	

I am going to smooth out the edges from the skeleton of the second draft and add on more description where appropriate to create a more detailed world. The description would sometimes probably be used to slow down the tempo of the story since I trimmed it down in the second draft. Last draft: I am going to read through it one last time and correct anything I missed. I can then maybe get third party opinion on my story/ies. These third parties could be friends or teachers or family, maybe I would be able to make use of the English department in school. Other sections of the project: I am going to add the abstract, introduction, conclusion, evaluation. I would probably focus on the literary review here, as I would have the best idea how to fill it in. I should also prepare myself for the presentation at the start of next year. Final edit: I will read through everything regarding the project and make sure everything's in place and up to standard. I will also take this time to rehearse my presentation. Resources for my presentation	6 weeks 6 weeks 5 weeks 2 weeks
Milestone one: Finishing the timeline of the story. Target date (set by tutor-assessor): Milestone two: Finishing the last draft. Target date (set by tutor-assessor):	
Section Four: Resources	
What resources will you need for your research, write up and presentation (eg, libraries, books, journals, equipment, rehearsal space, technology and equipment, venue, physical resources, finance):	

Books

Books are the most direct way I would be able to learn about how to write this project as well as get inspirations from. I will be reading *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King, which talks about creative writing and how he was able to create such vivid stories. There are also other books of which I can reference from to make my stories more sophisticated and believable such as *1984* for the structure of an oppressive society and *Inside the Criminal Mind* for the perspective of a criminal, namely a murderer. Hopefully, I would be able to find these books online or in the school library. If not, I would have to visit the city library.

Websites

There are lots of websites that have information that I would need, especially on the origins and rules of different magical disciplines. There would be some places where one source would contradict the other, especially on the internet, but I am researching a supernatural and probably non-existent topic, so I would probably have to take in as much information as I can make my own parameters. There are websites such as

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/magic-supernatural-phenomenon> and <https://powerlisting.fandom.com/wiki/Magic> that I can make use of.

Online courses

Online courses on magic would presumably harder to find, so I will mostly make use of online courses to learn about the writing process and how writers generate creativity. These courses would help me come up with plot lines as well as help me manage and organize my research in an orderly fashion. I will make use of online course from websites such as FutureLearn, Udemy, and edX.

Interviews

I will be distributing the story out to friends and family to read and perhaps get their opinion on them. This pilot group would act similarly to a beta test of a programme, and will help me get a more foreign opinion on my work. I would have to select beta testers from my target audience range though, which is something I have to keep in mind.

What your areas of research will cover?

I would like to look into the different aspects of creative writing and the writing processes of successful writers.

The writing process is the entirety of my project, which is why I feel like it should be the first thing I research and familiarize myself with. I want to look into what are the different parts of writing, such as the drafts, the reviewing and the editing. Another part of the writing process I would like to look into is how writers become creative. Everyone has a place or a mood they want to be in to work because they are most productive in it, and I want to see how I can get myself in

that zone. If I can achieve that, it would save me a lot of time and frankly put my heart at a bit more of a rest from writer's blocks.

I would like to look into the relationship the concept of magic had with the world throughout history as well as its relationship with science.

An aspect of magic I'd like to investigate is how the people felt about it, whether it was respected like during Egyptian times or despised and feared like during the witch hunts. This would add more flavour and be good supplement to its origin.

I suppose if enough research was put into ancient science, the line between it and magic blurs, for instance how alchemy is just a predecessor of chemistry. If I can find out the point at which magic becomes magic and science remains science, I would be able to make magic seem normal in a world which it shouldn't.

I would like to look into the different types of magic such as alchemy, clairvoyance and necromancy and establish their origins and limitations.

To create a power system for magic is interesting because it would allow characters to exploit a discipline's weakness, where no one discipline of magic is overpowered. This would develop a sort of video game situation and put character's wits instead of powers against each other.

Understanding a discipline's origin will perhaps create more suitable characters, or rather interesting ones if there are stereotypical personalities for a certain discipline. Whether to make it contrast or fitting the stereotype, it would set up an interesting character arc.

I would like to look into a bit of criminal psychology and murderers

I think magic would give a different perspective to murders and killings, especially when trying to understanding why. Rather than using magic to kill, which would be quite bland to be honest, using magic for interrogation would be interesting. A clairvoyant detective taking confessions from suspects, witnessing the crime in first person, would give total insight into criminal psychology. In order to write this properly, I would need an in depth understanding of what it takes and feels like to be a killer.

I would like to look into political oppression and tyranny

Being from Hong Kong and doing this project at a sensitive time like this, I would like to try and address our issue through this project. To do this, I would need to learn about examples of tyranny and of course what is going on with Hong Kong as it will be my primary reference.

I realize that there are a lot of media regarding tyranny, but most of them focuses on the pain and suffering of the people or the how cruel and inhuman the dictator is. I think it would be interesting to get a perspective from within the tyranny, to take a look at the people would believe in this obscene cause, as well as the lengths they will go.

Comments and agreement from tutor-assessor

Is the learner taking this project as part of the Diploma?

Yes/No

If yes, which Diploma are they taking? _____

Comments (optional):

Is project derived from work which has been/will be submitted for another qualification?

Yes/No

Which qualification (title and unit)? _____

Comments (optional):

I confirm that the project is not work which has been or will be submitted for another qualification and is appropriate.

Agreed: _____ (name) _____ (date)

Comments and agreement from project proposal checker

Comments (optional):

I confirm that the project is appropriate.

Agreed: _____ (name) _____ (date)

Activity Log

Project Activity Log	
Date	Content
10 th August, 2020	I finished my project proposal and sent it over to Ms. Kisiel to get her opinion on it. I also wrote out a really rough plan of the research I am going to do into a bullet point format list. I am going to meet up with Ms. Kisiel on Zoom this Friday and discuss my project proposal. I am going to start research over the next week.
13 th August, 2020	I joined FutureLearn and started on one of its course on writing fiction. Even though I haven't finalized my project proposal yet, this course is something that I would do anyways, so I might as well make use of my time and get on with it. I finished the lessons in the first week out of eight from the course. It was a bit slow to start with but once I got into it, it was quite enlightening. There weren't much relevant information I could for my project but next week's course seems to bring promising information.
14 th August, 2020	I met up with Ms. Kisiel this morning and got her approval to start on my research. I was told stay on course with my research planning as well as keep a table of all references and sources I have used. I am a bit wonky on that part, not really sure how to do that, but I should understand what to do once I find my rhythm.
17 th August, 2020	I finished the second and third week course of the FutureLearn Writing Fiction course. I was able to submit my work up to the forum for some peer to peer review and got back some very useful comments meanwhile giving some of my opinion to other writers. I learned from these two weeks how to start writing and overcome the first blank page.
18 th August, 2020	I finished the fourth week course and stepped a little bit into the fifth. I am thinking about maybe alternating my research sessions so I get a little bit of rest between each topic. Maybe I would have a three day cycle in which I focus on the writing process on the first day, magic on the second day, and the miscellaneous part on the third day. However, the issue with this is that I would be dispersing my attention and frankly, my rhythm would be interrupted, which is why I'm unsure about this plan.

19 th August, 2020	I moved on with the fifth week of the course. I have decided that I should finish one area of notes before I move on to the next. By doing so, I would be able to maintain the same head space and rhythm, which would improve my efficiency on said topic.
25 st August, 2020	Work progress have been slow since the last time I checked in. There just wasn't really time to finish a whole week of the course every time I sat down because something always seemed to pop up. I am currently at the end of week six, and writing out the first draft of the short story I will hand in for the course. I also realize that I don't really need to do as much research as I had anticipated because the course is supposed to be one of three sections of my research and I am already well over the minimum word count of 1000 words, but there is no harm in doing more research than that, except that I have to manage my time accordingly.
26 th August, 2020	I finished the final piece of assignment of the eight week course, and is now waiting for feedback to finish the whole course. I liked this course, probably because it is very interactive and it deals with the very basic constructs of writing fiction, but I can't say I learnt a whole lot from it. It was very informative, but most of the content I had already known and learnt. Nevertheless, it was a very good beginners course. Now I should move on to my second unit of research.
29 th August, 2020	I've finished the research section on the history of magic. I somehow feel a bit guilty from it because practically everything I need came from one website, so maybe I should get a second source on the subject. Nevertheless, very productive today and tomorrow I can get started on the merge between science and magic.
30 th August, 2020	I've read up on a couple of new sources and cross checked all of my research from yesterday. Everything checked out and I even got a few new points and details. I've thought about using Wikipedia, but our instructor told us to that we can only use it under the condition that we reference the original source that Wikipedia lists at the bottom of the page. I did that and I regret it a tiny bit because it was probably the most tedious thing I had to do this summer. I will probably just stay clear of that from now on.
1 st September, 2020	I've finished up the magic through history part of my research, now moving on to the boundaries between magic, religion and science. I acknowledge that I will not be able to finish this research before school

	starts and I suspect I will be very busy after school starts, so I should make the most out of the remaining days of this holiday.
6 th September, 2020	Over the last few days, I did more research. I finished up the magic-religion-science paradigm part and is moving on to specific disciplines. This part is tricky I have to admit, because the boundaries between each disciplines are kind of blurry.
13 th September, 2020	Start of school was definitely more tiring and busy than I had anticipated, but it was a good week. Enough, this isn't my personal journal. I haven't been able to get any research in this week, but I have managed to get it in now. This will be my little launchpad for ploughing on with this project through school and high water! I suspect progress wouldn't be very smooth now, but I will be working my best, and I suspect I really wouldn't have any time to slack off to.
14 th September, 2020	True to my word, I carried on with the research today. I feel like I might've went a bit overboard with the research at the beginning, but I guess this is the appropriate amount too. Magic systems and discipline really doesn't really too in-depth of research because they almost always crossover with each other and cause confusion. My goal in this research is just to make sense of it all. I didn't do that much today, just a small bit on clairvoyance, but I believe that if I insist on doing a little bit every day, then I will continue to make progress and I will continue to have momentum.
16 th September, 2020	I moved on and written up half of my "Satanic worshipping" section, and understood that I have severely misjudged my abilities to do research. I've put too much detail in the first half of my research and now I don't have time to finish up the second half. I didn't account for the days of which I would procrastinate and days that I would have no motivation, as well as days that I could bulldoze through things and days I make loads of mistakes on. This is something I would have to look out for in the future, something that could potentially derail my entire project.
18 th September, 2020	I have finished up the Satanic worshipping section, which wasn't as much progress as I had hoped but it's something at least. I have heard from teachers and classmates today about something called a Gantt chart for managing timetables. I am going to look it up tomorrow and see if I can make use of it.

20 th September, 2020	Satanic worshipping is definitely finished now, and we're onto the last discipline. This wasn't the most efficient and productive weekend, but I did get something down. Computer science is taking a lot out of me, which I'm pretty sure I'm going to have to get accustomed to. Will look in the Gantt chart thing tomorrow.
21 st September, 2020	The disciplines of magic section is officially done, now moving onto the miscellaneous bunch. I still haven't looked into the Gantt chart yet, but I'm sure it would help me avoid these types of issues where my time seems to be leaking from the satchel at my waist.
24 th September, 2020	I met up with my new tutor-assessor for an EPQ session. She gave me a completely different perspective on my project and introduced me to a side that was completely unaccounted for before. She said that I should consider famous writer's works, such as Stephen King and H.P. Lovecraft, and produce an analysis on them. I don't know how I haven't thought of this before but I am astounded. She also said that I would have to consider how my book is produced physically. I have been caught up on how to write my book I didn't realize I would actually have to make one. She introduced me to https://www.blurb.co.uk/novels-and-poetry, which is a website off of which I can create my book and make copies of it. I am really thankful for these ideas but now another challenge is staring me in the face. I am already behind on my research big time, and now I've got new areas I would have to cover. I am hesitant and following this up more as I feel like I need to start working on the plot and the actual artefact or I will begin to lose motivation for the project. I will read the materials on the side as I am planning up my plots and characters, and the comparisons and analysis would have to come later, because a swig of motivation won't hurt every now and then.
1 st October, 2020	I met up with my tutor assessor again today, she showed us some techniques for conducting research. "Skim, scan and summarize" was the tips. I have decided to finish my original plan of research first. I have a feeling that integrity might serve better in the long run than a small spur of motivation. I will also be reading on the side of the researching, H.P. Lovecraft's short story – The Call of Cthulhu, George Orwell's 1984 and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. I believe these reads will benefit my understanding and insight into the

3 rd October, 2020	I finished the criminal psychology part of the miscellaneous research. Spent a long time on a really unreliable source, which I had to read multiple other sources to replace and confirm its claims, but it worked out in the end. Will look at Gantt chart tomorrow, I promise.
4 th October, 2020	I finally read into Gantt charts. I originally thought that it was an application or a software that makes progress timelines like Monday.com on the YouTube ads. Turns out it's a category term for progress timeline charts, and I can make one on Microsoft Excel. I'm not really sure if I should do it. I don't really feel like it would provide me with significant help, but it does help with specific organisation of time and work load. I suppose I can make use of one.
11 th October, 2020	Been a while since I last checked in, sadly not a lot of progress have been made. I met up with Ms. Kisiel last Thursday and she gave me the green light to write out my research from my notes, as well as the introduction and the literature review. I now have a clear idea of what I have to actually hand in, which is long overdue, but I understand it now at last. I have got a third of it written out, and I think I could maybe, potentially finish it before Thursday when I have another meeting with her. But this week is going to be very challenging, picking computer science and EPQ is really starting to come back and bite me in the backside. I have two tests for it this week so my time is really tight now. Better time management is needed, but thankfully this is the last week before half term, which is a break I desperately need and hopefully I can get all of my setting documents done and start on the writing!
21 st October, 2020	This week has been really slow, I'm starting to lose control a bit of everything. I'm still writing up my research, which will hopefully be finished this weekend, but we'll have to see. This half-term break is much needed for me to get all the tedious parts of the project like the research write-up, the introduction and the literature review out of the way, though it would mean I'd have to do the second drafts of these documents in the first couple of weeks back. Which hopefully shouldn't be that much of a problem, if this half-term gives me enough rest and momentum to get back into it.
24 th October, 2020	I am nearing the end of the write-up. It does feel a bit flimsy, because I don't really know the system on footnotes and references. I got all my references plugged into a separate file, I'll just have to find time to

	transfer it into the correct format and into the write-up file as well. I'm sure it's not that complicated, especially with all the tools online.
26 th October, 2020	I have finished my write-up of my research! I'm not going to bother with the references just yet because I have a feeling they might change and get added and it wouldn't be nice to have to go back and update it, so I'll just do the citations at the end. I will start writing my introduction tomorrow, aiming to finish it in two days, and then literature review for the rest of the break.
29 th October, 2020	The introduction is finished, with a pretty hard hitting message I feel like. In perspective, maybe a bit too heavy for a 17 year-old's school project but in the heat of the moment, it just came to me so as a writer, I cannot possibly pass it up. To be honest, I'm not overly confident on what I'm supposed to do for the literature review. I understand from Ms. Kisiel that I should separate the review into my topics of research, and then to group my sources together and review them. I understand it, I get the essence of it, but it's the method bridging them together with actually putting them on paper that I'm not sure on. I tried to look for some literature review examples on the web, but so far nothing I can really base mine off of. Nonetheless, I still need to write it.
30 th October, 2020	I'm halfway through my literature review, and the momentum of writing like I'm writing a grimoire hasn't left yet, which I am really unsure about, especially for this part. I can't seem to write in any other way these few days, so grimoire it is and I'll have to edit it down to be more professional sounding later.
3 rd November, 2020	Literature review is done. Break has ended and school is starting. I doubt I'll have much time to do anything else other than revising, because I've got two tests next week and the week after to prepare for, which I suppose came at the right time. I couldn't see Ms. Kisiel today in school, and I have heard something about her being in America so I guess I'll have to wait for her to come back before I can really move on to anything. So these couple of days I'll have to keep on top of tests and revision and not worry about EPQ too much.
8 th November, 2020	The technology we know as email has completely escaped my mind until now, so I sent Ms. Kisiel the stuff I did this break, hopefully she isn't too busy and can give me some feedback.

11 th November, 2020	EPQ has been on somewhat of a hiatus these couple of weeks. Haven't gotten anything back yet from Ms. Kisiel, so I suppose I can't really move on. I mean, I can, but it would be messy if I get it wrong and will have to do it over again after I see her. Maybe this isn't a bad thing, maybe this could be a short break from EPQ to get my mind off it, and come back stronger!
14 th November, 2020	I think this break has outlived its welcome, I'm starting to get guilty from not working on it. I will do some information gathering I'd say, about how to plan out my plots and characters. Not so much research, just to get my head in the right space. I believe Ms. Kisiel is coming back this week, so hopefully I'll be able to get a meeting with her and get her thoughts on the introduction and literature review.
16 th November, 2020	I conducted some research on a couple of concepts I've heard but not really understand. I've heard of people using storyboards to plan out their plots first, but I fail to see how that actually works. Storyboards, according to Vyond.com at https://www.vyond.com/resources/what-is-a-storyboard-and-why-do-you-need-one/, are frames and scenes with description underneath. "Creating a storyboard might just sound like an extra step in the process of making a video for your business, but trust us — it's a step you won't want to ignore." In some aspects, it might help, especially with special scenes I want to emphasize on, but as an overall structure, I don't think it'll be of much help.
19 th November, 2020	I have been able to see Ms. Kisiel today, and we made an appointment for next Wednesday.
23 rd November, 2020	Met up with Ms. Kisiel today. The introduction is fine, she said, but the literature review needs a bit more work. First things first, I need to take out the "I" statements and make it as objective as possible. I should very literally use my "areas of research" from my project proposal as my subheadings, instead of on a fundamental level. She also emphasized on the point that I shouldn't focus so much so on the process of the research, rather than what I've learned from the research. Therefore, I can actually follow a formula for the five "areas of research". I would have to state the fruits of my research in 3 to 4 bullet points, then cite it, evaluate it and then comment on its reliability.

	The stuff I wrote was still relevant she said, so she told me I shouldn't delete it. It could be used somewhere else, maybe in the evaluation, or even in the activity log here. We set up another meeting next Monday, to go over the review again, and see if it's better.
30 th November, 2020	Another meeting with Ms. Kisiel. I had the completely wrong idea about what a literature review is. It is a lot more complicated than I thought, I actually have to write about the contents of my research. She gave me a past project for me to get the right idea, and I'm not going to lie it kind of gave me goose bumps. This project might actually be too daunting for me. Also Ms. Kisiel is leaving, so that's eventful.
2 nd December, 2020	I got the first section of my new literature review done, it was quite to find what to write about because I don't really have that broad of a research content for creative writing but for the other parts it would be harder. There is a natural flow from the processed of writing and editing but for the other ones I would have to find a way to link different areas inside the same heading.
5 th December, 2020	Lockdown is making this easier I suppose, I have more time to write this review but I'm feeling like I'm losing motivation. The only reason I wanted to do for this project was the actually write, but it seems like a never ending lists of tasks I have to finish before I can actually write. The second section of the history of magic is so broad and I really don't know if I should write everything into it. I think I would just find bright spots in its history and relevant to the rest of the research I have conducted.
6 th December, 2020	Mrs. Robinson have been setting up weekly zoom sessions to catch up and she offered to set up an zoom interview for me with Mr. Robinson, who is an academic photography blog writer. It might not be all relevant to my project as I am writing fiction, but I think it will be beneficial nonetheless for the writing process section of my research.
12 th December, 2020	These zoom lessons are getting on my nerves, and sitting around all day on my chair is not good for my back. But going outside is not an option because I will contract hypothermia. Finishing sentences of the second section of the review. Lots of my research in that section have been left out of the review, which kind of

	makes me sad because I really wanted to put them in. Oh well, I'm doing this for a greater cause.
13 th December, 2020	The start of Christmas break is here. I aim to finish two sections of the review this week and that would make it possible to finish the literature within the Christmas break. This would make good progress for the rest of the project and I can get on with writing my five stories. I have quite a solid idea of what I want to do for my stories and what their plots will be but they are not concrete. However, I believe constructing a viable plot from them won't be too hard.
14 th December, 2021	I had my interview with Mr. Robinson today. I was beneficial to talk to an actual writer, I can get actual and accurate insights into the writing process and what a writer's everyday life is. He was a nice guy, I enjoyed talking to him and picking his brain. Apparently, a writer's life fluctuates much to their writing performance. They come and go, and if an opportunity is there they will have to rush and take it as best they can, especially if writing is their job.
21 st December, 2021	The third part of the literature review is done. I said it, it's done. This took way too long. Even though I didn't even look at that many sources for the research paragraphs, motivation is just wailing and it's getting harder and harder to actually write anything, even though everything I do at this point is just repeating and repeating for different sources and different disciplines of magic. The last two parts will be easy, they are so much smaller than the other three, it'll be done in no time and I can actually start to write my stories.
30 th December, 2021	Like I said last time, part four is easy. Somehow I have this doubt at the back of my head, I am scared that what I'm doing now might be incorrect, then I'd have to actually do it again. I've never done a project like this, let alone write a literature review as exhaustive as this, but I suppose there isn't much I can do about it. Onto part five.
7th January, 2021	I'm not going to lie, this part took longer than I expected. There were articles that had political connotations to them and that took a long time to figure out and research in and of itself. But it's done now, and I can focus on something other than reliability and validity. I have emailed Ms. Kisiel the first draft of the literature, and requested for a meeting next Friday.

15 th January, 2021	Today is a sad day. Just had a meeting with Ms Kisiel, she said that my literature review was just a little off the mark. By a little I think she was just being nice, I was nowhere near what I was supposed to have written, and now I would have to redo it. The entire thing. It was already a drag when I wrote it the first time, I'll hate writing it this time around.
20 th January, 2021	I've got a good idea of what I have to do now. I read through some more literature reviews online and they all follow a similar pattern. With just one exemplar it was hard to pinpoint what I had to do because there was no reference to relativity, now that I've seen multiple, I'm confident I have identified the components of the literature review and all I really need to do is just tick off the boxes. The ones I've read off of the academic websites are definitely not of our level so I understand that they would have to go into a lot more detail but I think it would be beneficial to my project that I try to adopt their style as close as possible. However, it took me close to a month to produce two pages of writing for the first draft, and from what I have in my mind I am supposed to do a lot more than just two pages again. I have to dive deep into every source I consider significant and repeat the process of reliability and validity. This will be a trek.
24 th January, 2021	I have finished the first section of the second draft for the literature review. Now it's time for the hefty second section. The first section took some calibrating, but I think I found my rhythm after it all. It was formulaic how we're supposed to write about the sources, all I have to do is find out, say, the same five things about every source and I'm set. However, I am finding it a bit harder to format and structure this section. There are clear ways to organize the other sections such as chronologically through history and by disciplines through magic, but the writing process would take a bit of tinkering to get right and make the reading smooth.
12 th February, 2021	I have finished the second section of the second draft for the literature review. I absolutely have got the rhythm now, all I'm scared of is that perhaps the sources for different sections would have different properties, such as the history ones are mostly from books and the

	discipline ones are most from websites. Maybe they'll have another rhythm to them that I will have to get used to again. I just realized that the third section is apparently even chunkier than the second, only way onwards is forwards!
2 nd March, 2021	The third section is finally done, I cannot be happier. This section took way too long to finish, but somehow I am progressing faster than I did during the first draft. There was a point where I had the rhythm I talked about previously in my hands but as time went on, somewhere in the middle of the past month it just kind of gone and I went into autopilot. I just wanted to get this part over with and that was it. And I did! I want to see if I can finish this literature review before we return to school on the 8th. Will have to hustle.
8 th March, 2021	The plan was to finish the literature review before school starts, but that went into the when I had to rewrite the whole thing. I am starting to get nervous about the timings, having five different short stories to get through before November, and then on top of that the conclusion and evaluation. I don't believe it'll be a problem to shorten it to four stories if I do need to but the concepts I had written up in my head would have gone to waste. But before that I really just need to finish this stupid literature review.
13 th March, 2021	Finished the fourth section, now onto the last section. I don't know why, I feel this random surge of energy. I think this may be because I'm close to finishing the second draft of the literature review. I feel like I feel so motivated because I know I'm about to be so close to actually starting writing, which was really the only thing I wanted to do from the beginning.
20 th March, 2021	I have finished the second draft of my literature review. It's done. It's finally done. I am so done with it, I wash my hands of it. On the other hand, Ms. Kisiel is gone. She's just gone. She didn't say nothing, didn't tell me anything, didn't tell anyone anything really and just dipped. Now everything's going to be messed up because different teacher supervisors would have different standards and my new one might be different. I have been passed over from Ms. Kisiel to Mrs. Robinson, so I went to her and set up a meeting in school next Tuesday, fingers crossed she gives me the okay so I can start writing my stories.

23 rd March, 2021	We had our meeting today and I showed Mrs. Robinson my literature review. I'm not sure she actually looked through it thoroughly. It was worrying how quickly she said that it looks good and told me to move on. Oh well, she said it was alright. And I feel like I actually did this professionally this time so... IT'S TIME TO WRITE MY BOOK!
25 th March, 2021	According to the writing process research I have done over the past six months, I would have to write a storyboard or at least some sort of structure planning for my stories before I start my actual writing. I already have five concepts in my head, but they aren't full blown ideas yet, which would probably be the point of this step in the writing process, so that I don't have to make up things as I go.
27 th March, 2021	This step is harder than I thought. I thought this was going to be a walk in the park in terms of just sitting there and making my concepts make sense. It's so painful to try and make everything make sense and make sure every decision and component of the story has a cause and an effect that is linked together. But this is a good pain, I do enjoy trying to make everything make sense. It is nice to know that everything you know and constructed makes sense. I have gone through my five concepts and think that I will combine story one and five as they can both be worked into the same story and they're a bit repetitive.
29 th March, 2021	The storyboard for the first and second story are finished. This means that three of my concepts have been made into reality, well, almost reality, it will be reality when I eventually write it out. I can't wait, I have already got a storyboard handy I can actually start it now.
3 rd April, 2021	I'm going to start it, I'm going to start writing my story. I'll think about the storyboards for the rest of the three stories when I finish it.
6 th April, 2021	I have thought further into my storyboard for my first story. I have identified the main concepts and theme of the story, what message I wanted to convey at the end of story. I have decided that this is going to be a murder mystery, and I believe that if I'm going to be leaving clues behind this story might prefer a more structured approach rather than a floral or tree based structure.

10 th April, 2021	I have given some thought into the research I've done. In an attempt to move as little from my workspace as possible, I have brought snacks and water and all types of different sustenance with me into my workplace. I even tried to eat dinner in my own room. It didn't really work out, I felt trapped and cramped into a space. The pressure to write was already present, and on top of that I had shut myself into a small dark room. It didn't do very much in the way of motivating me to work and write, neither did it benefit me physically either. I sat in the same position for way longer than I was supposed to and my back started to hurt, breaking my trance. It is anticipated though however, I have researched this and the writing process comes to everyone differently. My new strategy is to have periodic breaks, especially water breaks where I walk down to the kitchen to get water, to force myself to have a change of pace. Writing to me would be an intensive short period of work, a sprint of sort if you will.
15 th April, 2021	The first part of my story is finished, this took longer than I expected. I suppose I have to get a grip of what the story is supposed to feel like and the general style I should be aiming for. But it is now done, I have an idea of how I want my story to feel like and what techniques and words I can use or repeat to create that feeling.
22 nd April, 2021	I have finished the second part of the first draft for the first story. This took longer than I expected as well. I came into some writer's block I suppose when I went into the more gory details of the story, but I think I've written something I'm satisfied with and I can move on. I believe according to the present progression of the writing, we are on an optimal timeline to finishing the five stories.
1 st May, 2021	The first draft of the first story has been finished. This part was the longest part, but somehow it took shorter than expected. The finale was just as I had planned it, but the central concept may have been changed a little bit, however I believe it is for the better. I will now carry on with the editing and perhaps getting a second opinion on the story and the writing.
6 th May, 2021	I have reviewed my story and I have some doubts about some areas. Well firstly, grammar is a massive problem as I am not a native speaker I do not actually have a good idea on what I should really actually be

	writing. I just kind of write down what sounds good and correct instead of memorizing the notes and appropriations of everything. And secondly, I may have done the editing a bit too close to the actual writing. Perhaps I am not of a fresh brain yet, but I am afraid that everything will be seen through a biased lens if I look at it now. Maybe I do need a second opinion to get this done properly. I know, from my interview with Mr. Robinson and my research that I am, under no circumstances, allowed to show what I write to people who are close to me, because they can't really give me a straight answer. I have a friend who I believe will be more than happy to review it, but I would have to ask first, which I have already done.
8 th May, 2021	She said yes, and I gave it to her yesterday. She's gone through the story, which is a whole hefty 10,000 words in one night and just got back to me. She didn't really have anything to say about the story and the plot, but she did help me point out loads of grammatical issues with the writing, which was actually what I was struggling to get right. She is a massive life saver actually, she just solved two of my problems in one go.
10 th May, 2021	I didn't actually do any work today, but I need to start the second story as soon as possible or I sincerely don't think I can finish it in the summer before my last year starts. I'd like to focus more on my exams next year and not have worry about this, on top of that I still have my computer science coursework to work on side by side as well, I really need to work out how I can cram this all in. Upon more detailed consideration, I think four stories might actually be a bit too much for me. I think I'm going to shrink my project from four to three again.
15 th May, 2021	This had completely escaped my mind. We have exams next month. I'm going to have to revise and put the project on hold for a bit. This will put the progress plan a bit back, but it should be compensated by the fact that I am shortening from four stories to three stories. I will be taking a break until exams are over, and then I'll go full throttle on it.
10 th July, 2021	Exams have finished now, and I did pretty nicely if I do say so myself. Now that the summer is upon me, I'll have to focus fully on finishing

	these stories before school starts again next year, or else there'll be a lot of stress what with mocks, deputy and prefect duties and of course UCAS applications. I believe I can finish the story part of the project before school starts after some consideration for my work rate and what not, leaving me with an evaluation and conclusion part of the project to work on after school starts, which shouldn't be a lot to worry about. The second story as a whole will be finished by the end of this month and the second one will be finished before September, right before school starts. I know that it might seem like I'm cramming progress but I think that without school I'd be able to get more writing time in and finish a story quicker than it I were to write it during school.
17 th July, 2021	I have been accepted to an online internship at a transportation consultancy agency in Hong Kong, which is great because I think this would help boost my university application by a mile, as well as give me some work experience in the field that I am interested in. However, this apprenticeship lasts for two months, which is the entirety of the summer holiday, and on top of that I would have to start revising and revisiting topics for Year 13. Time all of a sudden seems really tight now for the next couple of weeks of the holiday but I have sorted out a productive timetable to fit everything in, evenly distributing the three components of the summer holiday for one day. I don't expect there'll be much time for me to have fun this summer, of course I took time to allow myself to relax but it will be under a strict regime and I would have to adhere to it.
19 th July, 2021	As if time couldn't get any tighter, I have just tested positive for coronavirus. I am still in condition to work, albeit very slow and painful, but I can still function.
24 th July, 2021	Famous last words, I was completely out of commission for three days. And then I had to catch up on the work piled up from the apprenticeship, but now I am back on track. I have started the first draft of second story today. It will be really crammed, but at this point I don't think I have any choice.
25 th July, 2021	Detailed planning and storyboard for the second story have been put down on paper, now I can start on the first draft.
31 st July, 2021	This first section has been hard.

	Firstly, this is the second story of my total of three, but it is the first story after my first. The tone, the style and the aura I created for the first story does not really apply to this story, but I've been accustomed to writing in the way that fits my first story. I need to switch up the style and the framing to create the correct tone for this story, of which I went for a fable-ish style. On the other hand, this story's planning was quite different from the first story's. For this story I had a plan that was set in stone, with three parts and a very clear cut separation between them. For this story, I have a story, a message, and its characters, and that's it. I do not have clear cut sectional borders that give me an intermediate goal in sight to work towards. Even though I feel like I have to have an individual style for every story, I think this story requires a clear cut format as well, which I have now constructed after three or four rewrites of the introduction to the story. It's good that I am able to identify these things now, I just have to find the solution to them now. A detailed, clear cut plan must be devised which would just leave me to follow it.
3 rd August, 2021	The rewrite of my first part has been finished, it has been long, but with the help of the new plan I finished it at a decent pace and is now on schedule, given that I ignore the amount of time I have spent rewriting.
10 th August, 2021	Second part has been finished. I don't really have much to say, I am on track and going through it at a good pace. I feel motivated to write and I've got a lot of momentum behind me to power through this, I won't let this boost go easy.
15 th August, 2021	third part has been finished, absolute super job. I'd say I've nearly caught up with the initial plan I've set before summer began but I'd be lying, however I am definitely much faster than I predicted when I decided to rewrite and redo the story planning.
19 th August, 2021	The second story is finished, and honestly I feel even prouder now than I did when I finished my first story. This story definitely felt a lot harder than the first one especially with the hurdle at the start, and the fact that this story is more complex with its message and undertones.
21 st August, 2021	I have shared my second story with an external party and is waiting on receiving feedback. We discovered that on Google documents, there's a feature where people can add comments to the file, which turned out to be extremely helpful.

	She had added her opinions in the comment bubbles and everything was annotated to be clear and precise to read, for me and anyone else.
22 nd August, 2021	She had gotten back to me with the small comments added to the Google document, and gave me some general feedback on the plot and story as a whole. She said she liked it again, and that it was really intense, which I was really happy about, and she soothed my soul on some of the points that was a bit iffy with me and it turned out alright.
23 rd August, 2021	With the second story done in such a rush, I didn't actually get the time to do any of the other subject and projects. Of course I had to do my tasks for my internship but anything else was a bit overwhelming to do when crammed all into one. School is about to start soon too, and I really have to get back in shape for this last year of high-school, especially because this will be the A-Level year. Maths, computer science, and maybe even physics are all things I'll have to juggle in these last couple of weeks, which hopefully will be enough.
28 th August, 2021	I've given it some more thought, to be honest, I don't think this is such a good idea anymore. I won't be doing my A-Levels immediately after the start of school, nor would I be finishing any of the curriculum anytime soon. On top of that I also have UCAS I have to take care of, which would take up an enormous amount of time. It would be a mistake to push this back until after school starts, I seriously have to get this done now.
30 th August, 2021	The story board and planning for the last story has started, I am aiming to try and catch the end drift of the momentum I conjured out of nowhere from the second story to see how fast I can wrap this up.
3 rd September, 2021	The more I think about this story, the more I think I should return to the initial idea of writing what I feel like writing. I understand that having a very concrete plan with well thought out details will make writing the main body a lot smoother than if I had just winged it, but I have most of the core ideas and monologues already written out, I can really just spare myself some time with this last story.
5 th September, 2021	The first draft for the last story has started, and I have decided to take the more "be water" and "let imagination flow through me" approach of not making a detail to detail plan for every step in the story. I will have to adapt to this method quick as time is not my friend right now, but on the other hand I feel somewhat more familiar with this story somehow. I don't have the headlights in fog nights feeling with

	the other stories; this one I can see exactly how it pans out, even if it changes constantly in my mind.
7 th September, 2021	School have started today, my plan has failed. But I cannot stop now, I'm already knee deep into this I really can't afford to take a break now and find the motivation to get back into it again. I just have to finish it before the pressure mounts too high; there is no going back now. On a happier note, the beginning of the story is finished, I will have to move on to the really meaty part which I've been looking forward to, but to be honest I still haven't thought about how I would bring out the core monologues yet.
12 th September, 2021	Problem has been introduced, the more I write in the direction I am headed right now, the closer it gets to story one. For this story, I wanted to put the reader's perspective through a review of the memories the main character had had, but this would come a bit too close to the idea of the first story where the detective dives into memories to solve the crime. This is consequence of my own action, I should've spent a bit more time thinking through the story plan before I rushed in. Oh well, no reason to cry over spilled condiments, but I will have to rewrite the entire meaty part of the last story.
15 th September, 2021	These three days have been excruciating, practically stuck in limbo in fact. But I'm through. Instead of sitting there and think, I just wrote and experimented with different strategies. Lo and behold, one of them worked. I was wondering around but it actually felt pretty good reading it, and it will be a fresh experience from the rest of the story. Instead of a review of the past memories, it will just be a conversation between two people. This would be a lame idea in the concept of film and cinematography, but I'm writing a book! Readers have the best director for themselves! Their very own imagination! Suited to their taste and favouritism, and I can make use of that feature to save myself some worry. By being more ambiguous and using the monologues themselves as a portal through the main character's perspective, there would be no action but the feeling will be real and emotions could have the opportunity to pop off in the reader's head.

	I think this direction is the correct direction.
21 st September, 2021	This past week was slow. After my breakthrough with the technique, the UCAS deadline is almost upon us and I really have to start finalising my application. Teachers have been working their backsides off trying to write me my references, and I feel a little bad to have them remind me to finish my application so I might just take a short break from writing. I am confident enough in this method that I think it would smooth sailing from here.
29 th September, 2021	Coming into this story, I've already had parts of it written down, which was why I wanted to write this story in the first place. I wanted to use my monologues that were written maybe a year or two ago in this story but I will have to blend them into the concept; they do not exactly match perfectly. I have picked out the monologues I wanted to use and the order I wanted them to appear in as well as the linkage between them. The concept and bricks are all there, now I just need the glue.
3 rd October, 2021	The bulk has been finished! Even though I said I was going to put this on hold for a bit until my application has been sent off but I couldn't wait and this time it's not conjured up, the momentum is actually dragging me along. The entire bulk of the story felt great to write, somehow it seemed less geometric than the other stories, kind of like a fever dream someone might have. It was exactly the effect I was after, I think this would be a great story. Now I just have to finish the ending.
8 th October, 2021	Considering how strong the momentum is, I would've thought the ending would've been done an hour or so after the bulk was finished, but it wasn't until just now. I guess I thought I had a message, but what I really had was monologues. I still think they were great, but they had no message in them. But it is finished now, I am satisfied with the finale I have put on this series. Now I just have to smooth out some rough spots in the bulk and round off some edges around the end.
11 th October, 2021	Final editing of the fever dream has been done. I am grateful that I stuck to the freedom writing strategy, it worked out way better than I

	imagined and I feel like it suited this story a lot better than I had originally imagined it would. Everything worked out in the end albeit through a very treacherous valley to cross, but it worked out.
15 th October, 2021	I can safely say that on this day, my 18th birthday, my series of short stories have been finished. I do have to send this off to external editing but, it's my birthday, I'm counting this as finished.
17 th October, 2021	The third story has been sent off to my friend for external editing and commentary, can't wait to see what she thinks.
28 th October, 2021	In all honesty, she didn't say much. She said that there were rarely any occasions of grammar that she picked up on, and the story flowed really well. She barely made any comments to the Google document which led to questioning whether she actually read it or not but hell, it not like I'd go and confront her if she didn't; I am really grateful for her help. I have taken the little comments she's given me and made some tweaks to the final draft. And I suppose that officially marks the end of the writing process of this project.
11 th November, 2021	I would say I took a small break, but this was way longer than a small break. With the bulk of my project out of the way, all I have left now is my conclusion and evaluation. I have no clue how to write either but I am confident that they will not take me longer than what it took me to write the three stories.
18 th January, 2022	Over the last couple of months, EPQ had completely evaded my mind. My UCAS application has been sent off and I've received two offers, which is amazing. A Level mocks have just gone through, didn't exactly do very well on them, so kind of panicking now. I'm not going to lie, I don't really know why I'm still writing this. I don't think I have enough time to finish this project, or more accurately I could really be using the time devoted to this project on revising and preparing my A Levels. So this will probably be my last entry.
26 th January, 2022	I just had a talk with Mr Claydon, and somehow the man has convinced me to finish the project. I do not know what sorcery he pulled on me, I

	could've sworn I had a stronger stance on this than that, but I guess I might just be a yes man. My reasoning to drop this project stemmed from the fact that I could be using this time to do more worthy things like finish my Computer Science coursework or something else. On the other hand, I had already finished the part of the project I wanted to do the most. The entirety of the artefact has been finished and I guess I just had no motivation to finish whatever else is left of the project. On top of that, doing this EPQ was just to earn an extra qualification, but none of the universities I've applied to really take EPQ into consideration. The one that does replied to me saying my EPQ topic isn't relevant to the subject I will be studying at university so it is also not taken into consideration. Mr Claydon said that it would be a shame to drop the project now because I've done so much for my project, and that is true. I spent months trying to get through my literature review just so I can get to the writing phase and that is not even something I enjoyed. If I quit now I'd just be putting it all to waste. And that doesn't necessarily feel very nice. There is still time to decide, from submitting it to him to the presentation to the actual submission of the project. I still have time to decide, but I would have to keep working on it until I either submit it or drop it. Right now, I have to finish my conclusion and a table of contents before half term, which really shouldn't be too hard. Hopefully these wouldn't be my famous last words.
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Literature Review

Different aspects of creative writing and the writing processes of successful writers

To write a story, one must first have an idea of what the story is about, who is in the story, and what happens to them. It states in one of its lessons that characters require a make or break decision as well as a conflict and a flaw. “To show what makes a character, you must come to a crucial choice that almost breaks and then makes the character. The make-or-break decision gives you plot.” The Open University FutureLearn Start Writing Fiction is an online course perfect for learning about the writing process.¹ Coming from a reliable source such as a tertiary education institution, the information is free from political bias as its only purpose is to educate those beginning to write. Because of this, this source might not be as relevant to aspiring writers or those that have been writing for a while.

Research is a fundamental part to any type of writing, ranging from supernatural fiction to methodical theses. Dr Simon Robinson shared in a personal interview that a writer must immerse him/herself in the subject of their writing.² Knowledge on one hand is vital to the writing’s credibility, but surrounding oneself in an environment of the subject will provide an encompassing understanding. Writers must keep an open mind about how change is a constant, and through so not everything will be understood straight away.

When the writer has enough information and is prepared to write, that is when the hardest part arrives. Dr Robinson revealed that writing the first sentence is often the hardest task for a writer, because the rest will be easier when that first sentence is set and guides you through the rest of the way.³ “Writers would naturally find ways to distract themselves”, he says, which is why they would ideally block themselves off from distractions such as social medias to promote productivity when writing. On another note, Dr Robinson recommend trying to move from the place of work as little as possible so that the rhythm of writing isn’t broken. Productivity is a momentum and writers would want to make the most out of the inertia.

Once a plot is establish and the writing commences, writer’s block is something that’s bound to stand in one’s way. Michéle Roberts shared her opinion and solution on this issue, exclaiming that it is very important and useful to keep a notebook by your side.⁴ In addition to the obvious advantages of time management and organisation, writers are also practicing in

¹ (Neale, 2014)

² (Robinson, 2020)

³ (Robinson, 2020)

⁴ (Roberts, 2014)

their spare time and jotting down whatever ideas they may have in the moment allow them refer back to and expand on later.

Michèle Roberts wrote *Daughters of the House* and *The Wild Girls*, making her an expert in the field of writing. Understanding what experts like her would do in problematic situations like these gives writers an option to follow when they come across these problems as well. These methods might not be very consistent, as they are only an option, not an absolute solution, of which a writer would have to seek for themselves.

After a writer finishes the first draft, they would always go back and read what they've written. It is definite that writers will find things that they are not satisfied with and change them. Editing was the focus of the third week of the course, where a checklist of general criteria that should be met was given to the learners.⁵ "Is it what you meant to say, really? Have you found the best way to convey it? Would a particular event really have happened that way?" are examples of a couple of its questions. The editing process is also a subjective topic. The process would be different for different people, therefore there isn't really a standard industrial routine to it. Hence, this research is useful in the way it gives a reference of what writers should be looking to do, instead of presenting a clear-cut formulaic approach.

Editing is the most painful part of writing. A writer must criticise his/her writer with ruthlessness, often discarding parts that the writer holds dear simply because it wasn't suitable for the mood. Dr Robinson says he goes through this process every time, but he never discards anything, storing them in a separate file instead for other more appropriate situation.⁶ This process would recur multiple times until the writer is completely satisfied, because a writer must be competitive with themselves and never settle for anything less. Often writers would look for a second opinion, and family should never be an option. Not only will personal relationships come factor in, but comments too harsh would hurt these relationships as well.

Dr Robinson writes an academic blog called *Driving Thru Wasteland*, which explores edgelands and spaces left over from planning. The subject of which Dr Robinson's career focuses on is concrete and analytical, therefore research methods are more readily available. Those methods of research may not be optimal for this project but is exemplary for parts where fiction is set to meets non-fiction.

⁵ (Neale, 2014)

⁶ (Robinson, 2020)

Relationship the concept of magic had with the world throughout history as well as its relationship with science

Science are the rules that govern nature, religion are the rules that govern men, and perhaps magic is both, in one way or another. According to Britannica's History of magic in Western Worldviews, magic is the oldest of the trio, going as far back as ancient Mesopotamia.⁷ It existed in the form of haruspicy, a discipline of divination that makes use of animals' internal organs to conduct fortune readings, often dictating political decisions.

As time progressed, a negative attitude towards magic grew alongside the influence of the most important book in human history, the Bible. In its New Testament, magicians such as Simon Magnus were people who tried to buy the powers of the disciples for their own gain, depicted as evil and corrupted. In a similar context, the concept of magic was treated as the evil of foreign religions and practices. Magic, in their eyes, were of fear of the unknown.

Tailing the influence of the Bible, people of the Medieval age had brewed and developed upon their cause for condemnation towards magic. It was viewed as heresy and regarded as tampering with the natural world, as written in the Deuteronomy 18:9-12. It is also used to amplify the people's detestation for the "Other", such as Jews and Muslims at the time. However, outside of Christianity, magic served other purposes and roles, mostly in the academia side of the world. Being used as a literary device in literature, such as in the Arthurian Legends, as well as the first aromas of science, in the form of geomancy, hydromancy, aeromancy and pyromancy.

Towards the end of the Medieval times, the attitudes towards magic had gotten more extreme. This led to the Witch Hunt and the publication of the *Malleus Maleficarum* in 1486, which is the stem of modern misogynist values. Being the face of anti-social and dangerous cults and practices, magic's contributions had gone under the rug. The research into medicine and herbs as well as alchemy were overlooked, following the rise of white magic and *Magia Naturalis*. These two disciplines of magic means to coexist with the Christians value towards "tampering with the natural world", such as finding traces of magic in scriptures and what effect music has on the cosmos. It also encouraged the blurring between magic, science and religion, using them to understand the universe, prompting the Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment. Ironically, these concepts came under heavy criticism under that time period.

The Enlightenment was a time for reform and rational thinking, which heavily criticized the concept of magic due to its mysterious and vague nature. Businesses like charlatans and spirit rappers alike were pushed into the entertainment businesses. This was especially true for trickery, the form of magic that makes use of props such as cards and hats and assistants. This

⁷ (Gilbert, et al., 2016)

is what we call magic today. Academically, magic was distilled through scrutiny into different disciplines of science, such as astronomy from astrology and chemistry from alchemy.

Britannica has always been a useful and reliable source, being a very well-known encyclopaedia, therefore the origins of this source is secure. Nevertheless, this source is based on historical records and literature. The eras in question were under heavy influence from religions and authority, their records and literature would be affected by that of the mainstream perspective, such as Christianity's attitudes. On the other hand, research from this source would have been done through Western values and perspectives, of which magic is not all the time. Magic being an omni-cultural concept would be misjudged if it were to be perceived only from a Western perspective, especially through the lens of Christianity.

After the colonial ages, human academia grew exponentially as scholars can now collaborate with others all over the world. Philosophy and psychology were two new studies, and the paradigm of magic, religion and science were one of its most popular topics. Religion and Magic: Approaches and Theories explains different perspectives and approaches to this trio.⁸

It concludes from Sir James Frazer, a Scottish anthropologist, that both magic and religion are beliefs in spirits and how they interact with them to gain product. Magic is to constrain or coerce the spirits and religion is to conciliate or propitiate them. A more functionalistic approach from Alfred Radcliff-Brown, British social anthropologist, said that perhaps magic and religion are both rituals and it is a waste of time to distinguish them. Bronislaw Malinowski, known as the father of social anthropology, believed that magic and religion both "arise and function in situations of emotional stress", but agreeing with Frazer that magic is practical while religion is rather expressive.

Religion and Magic: Approaches and Theories is a collection of different past and present anthropologist's views of the role magic plays in society and of course, its relationship with religion. Being a second hand telling of ideas, the author would supply his own interpretation of past theories, which would make the information bias towards his views. Graham Cunningham is a renowned author in anthropologic books, such as the Literature of Ancient Sumer and Analysing Literary Sumerian: Corpus-based approaches, which makes his interpretation professional.

The famous psychologist, Sigmund Freud believed magic to be a result of wishing. He believed that the first magician's desire for his wishes generated hallucinations, and these hallucinations turned into satisfaction. Therefore, magic is, in the end, associated with results, but most importantly the satisfaction of the magician.

⁸ (Cunningham, 1999)

Freud expressed this in his book, *Totem and Taboo: Some Points of Agreement Between the Mental Lives of Savages and Neurotics*, which is one of his most important works in the field of psychology.⁹ Sigmund Freud is the founding father of psychoanalysis, a crucial part of present day psychology. His expertise in this field makes his opinion of this relationship not only reliable, but one mandatory to take into consideration.

On the other side of the paradigm, as Arthur C. Clarke wrote, “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”. Malinowski conveyed his opinions in his book, *Magic, Science and Religion*.¹⁰ He believes that magic is like science in that it is always used to attain a goal regarding human needs; they are practical by nature. However, they differ in the fact that “science is founded on the conviction that experience, effort, and reason are valid; magic on the belief that hope cannot fail nor desire deceive”, as Malinowski wrote in his book. While science depends on logic, magic depends on the magnitude of the magician’s desire.

Magic, Science and Religion is a book written in tribute by Malinowski to Sigmund Freud and Sir James Frazer’s contribution to the field of psychology, providing a professional interpretation of theories and opinions of his fellow scholars. On the other hand, Malinowski formulated his own opinion through in depth and irrefutable first person investigation into less developed cultures such as the Melanesians and the Trobriand people that then still practiced rituals and magic, making his findings and conclusion trustworthy.

A majority of the above sources analyse works of earlier anthropologists and give the author’s interpretation of their findings, making them biased towards the values of the author’s current day and age. 16th century, 18th century and 20th century views vary immensely, as demonstrated on other topics such as feminism. Sources that involve discussion and analysis, while more likely to be subjective to a conflict of views and values due to time periods, could possibly provide a secondary perspective to view the issue from, which would give a more perfected understanding of the subject.

⁹ (Freud & Strachey, 1950)

¹⁰ (Malinowski, 1925)

Different types of magic such as alchemy, clairvoyance and necromancy and establish their origins and limitations

Magic, as defined in the introduction, is the power of apparently influencing events by using mysterious or supernatural forces, which can be divided into various different disciplines. Witchcraft, voodoo, clairvoyance, satanic worshipping, alchemy and necromancy are selected to be the focus of research in this project.

Modern day witchcraft, also known as Wicca is the main offspring of witchcraft from English folklores, shamanic magic and freemasonry. According to Ronald Hutton in the documentary *The Man Who Changed Witchcraft*, Wicca originated from a nudist in Highcliffe named Gerald Gardner in 1938.¹¹ Gardner took inspiration from the cunning folk of the Middle Ages and established a cult-like organisation to provide a platform for people like himself to express their interests. This organisation later adopted the name of modern day witchcraft, Wicca.

As numbers grew, Gardner believed Wicca shouldn't be a closeted society. He took to the media and published *High Magic Aid*, *Book of Shadows* and *Witchcraft Today*. The last publication earned him an interview with the BBC Panorama programme, coupled with the social reforms of the 1960s, gained Wicca a significant amount of followers.

Wiccans practice rituals in nature, seeking connections with something ancient, of which they draw power upon. A common practice would be to cast a circle with a wand on the floor, signifying separation from the issues of the world and creating a safe space. After so, participants would consecrate each other with salt and water to remind each other that they are divine. Wicca in essence is a spiritual experience rather a discipline. It is a New Age Religion, unlike Buddhism or Christianity that have defining features of their faith. Hutton described Wicca as “a spirituality, a craft and a religion”, emphasising on the flexible of this organisation.

The Man Who Changed Witchcraft comes from a series of documentaries called *Absolute History*, produced by Little Dot Studio. These documentaries are narrated and led by historians such as Suzannah Lipscomb, Ruth Goodman and Ronald Hutton. These documentaries aim to reveal scarcely known yet intriguing histories, therefore they are free of bias. However, documentaries aimed to grab attention may put emphasis on parts that seem more fascinating and glance over those that aren't as, therefore making this source slightly variable. Overall, this documentary was conducted professionally with credible individuals behind it, making it a reliable source.

¹¹ (*The Man Who Changed Witchcraft*, 2020)

Voodoo is an ancient discipline in comparison to others in this research, originated 6000 years ago in Benin. According to National Geographic's article *Haiti: Possessed by Voodoo*, it is a "syncretism of west African religions and Roman Catholicism", with a common saying of "70% catholic, 30% protestant, 100% voodoo".¹²

Voodoo is an example of a religion undergoing the consequences of colonial rule. During slavery in 1700s, French plantation owners in Haiti housed a large population of West African slaves. The slaves were baptised Roman Catholics upon arrival but some persisted in following their original religion. They had to morph their religion into resembling that what was forced upon them and tricked their oppressors into thinking they had submitted.

Due to the fact that voodoo is an amalgamation of oppressive colonialism and a large population of original practitioners, voodoo has a large number of variations. There exists no holy text or prayer books, often passed down from generations through verbal storytelling. It is a very personal religion, intertwined with the practitioner and may appear to everyone differently.

This article aims to enlighten readers of Haitian voodoo history, and explained its origins through the perspective of observers of its practitioners. This source may be influenced by these observers' interpretation of and emotions for what the practitioners had gone through, giving bias to their side of the narrative. However morally white, but influenced nonetheless. National Geographic is a well-known source for documentaries, providing information through primary sources such as interviews of people with first-hand experience gives this source reliability but not so much credibility.

Voodoo owns a hierarchy of spirits and gods called Loas, with Bondye at the top of the hierarchy. According to HowStuffWorks' article on voodoo, practitioners seek spirits for advice, protection and assistance. Loas in turn would communicate with practitioners through the possession of a medium, often a priest or a priestess.¹³ During such a possession, the medium wouldn't be able to feel pain or be injured, in other words they have immunity from our world. Another form of communication between practitioners and Loas is through veneration. Veneration can be considered as worshipping, fetishes, sacrifices, and ceremonial dancing and music. Voodoo practitioners also pay close attention to colours, and only sacrifices of a certain colour will be valid towards the corresponding Loas of that colour.

Another aspect of voodoo is how its practitioners make use of fear. Voodoo associates with the dead, often trying to appease them, but truly to avoid the consequences of doing otherwise. Sorcerers known as Bokors poison and raise the dead to do their bidding is

¹² (Guynup, 2004)

¹³ (Wilson, 2007)

considered evil because they tamper with the dead. Others would injure themselves to practice blood work to gain more favours through suffering and pain, which would lead to a further chain of health and sanitary issues.

HowStuffWorks is a popular commercial infotainment website aimed to give insight to how things came to be and operate, a similar format to Absolute History. This source provides a large amount of information ranging from practices and similarities between voodoo and Christianity, making it very resourceful. This article is a secondary source with reference to reliable and credible sources such as American Museum of Natural History, National Geographic News and the United States Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, which makes this source itself very reliable.

According to Britannica, clairvoyance is defined as having knowledge of information not necessarily known to any other person, not obtained by ordinary channels of perceiving or reasoning form of extrasensory perception.¹⁴ The Clairvoyant Centre of Hawaii expresses that in fact, everyone is a psychic abled of clairvoyance.¹⁵ Untrained psychics either had their senses tuned too high, which requires training to control and focus; or too low, which requires the clearing of blockades, both emotional and mental.

Clairvoyance concerns the sixth chakra, or the third eye, or the spiritual eye, among the many names people have referred to it. Chakras are “wheels” or “energy centres” of information, which means they are a body’s senses. A sixth chakra would be like sight or hearing, but one for processing spiritual information. Clairvoyants make use of this chakra to interpret the world around them to a supernatural end, perceiving information a normal human being cannot.

There exists multiple forms of clairvoyance; multiple different ways to use the sixth chakra. Telepathy is to hear communication without sound, channelling is to bring another spirit into the user’s body, clairsentience is to feel what others are feeling and clairsentience is to communicate with spirits.

The Clairvoyant Centre of Hawaii is neither well-known or neutral in providing information. They are an institute that provides charged lessons to learn how to be a clairvoyant, therefore they would have an ulterior motive of financial gain. On the other hand, the instructors of this programme would have first-hand contact with clairvoyance and no one would be in a better position than they are. Research into disciplines of magic will not yield a set-in-concrete result as magic is a supernatural concept, therefore this source’s origins are credible as there is logic in its reasoning, but not reliable because there is no guarantee in anything it says.

¹⁴ (Lotha, 2007)

¹⁵ (Hawaii, 2018)

Clairvoyance has been chosen to be the main focus of The Self as it facilitates the insights into the main characters psyche as it travels through the memories of others, unlocking new perspective and information along the way. There are no other disciplines of magic that are quite as suitable as clairvoyance is to this purpose in the story (Appendix), the closest alternative would be viewing the memories through a fortune telling crystal orb, which would significantly decrease the amount of tension in the story.

Satanic worship is often depicted as the opposite of Christianity; that assumption wouldn't necessarily be false. Satanic worshippers consider themselves followers of the Left Hand Path, which puts heavy emphasis on the self rather than the religious authority. This differs Satanism from traditional religions like Judaism and Wicca.

There are two types of satanic worship, theistic and atheistic. Theistic satanic worshippers worship Satan as an actual being. This ideology boomed in the 20th century when the invention of the Internet facilitated information exchange. Their Satan is not the one depicted in Christianity; it doesn't promote rape or murder but instead freedom, sexuality, strength and hedonism. Pantheistic Satanism recognizes Satan as a representation of the cosmos or "the all", forming the First Church of Satan. Polytheistic Satanism recognizes Satan as one of many non-Abrahamic gods, forming the Church of Azazel. There is no central organisation for theistic Satanism, some follows Michael Aquino's Temple of Set, some actually follows LaVeyan's atheistic writings.

Coming from a publishing family called Dotdash which releases newsletters on various different genres such as finances and child care, Learn Religion is a website with the purpose of exploring religions and faith to create a more harmonious world, which suggests they are neutral in bias.¹⁶¹⁷ Catherine Beyer is a Master of history from the University of Wisconsin, giving this article professional credibility.

Atheistic Satanism also known as LaVeyan satanic worship, does not worship Satan as an actual being, only regard it as a representation of their faith. Focus is put on the independence of self, rejecting the reliance on an outside power, such as God. It also focuses on hedonism, materialism and self-worth like its theistic counterpart. Satan in LaVeyan Satanism is the avatar of everything that others consider as evil and filthy, of which sparks the rebellion against the higher authority, such as God or Christianity, or most often social expectations and norms.

¹⁶ (Beyer, 2020)

¹⁷ (Beyer, 2021)

LaVeyan Satanists are depicted as anti-social, but they only appear so because they solely pursue their own happiness as their principle is to treating oneself first before others. But this principle is never pursued blindly, as there is also a strong sense of responsibility and consequence of actions in this faith. When Anton LaVey established the Church of Satan on the night of 30th April, 1966, rules were set in stone similar to that of the Ten Commandments in Christianity. These rules are considered to be the holy text of LaVeyan Satanism: The Nine Satanic Statements outlines their fundamental beliefs, The Eleven Satanic Rules of the Earth are rules for the members of the Church of Satan, and the Nine Satanic Sins lists actions that are unacceptable for followers of the Church of Satan.^{18 19 20}

LaVey established the Church of Satan to mock the Christian faith, and invented the black mass, which is a reverse of a catholic mass.²¹ Most notable aspects of a black mass include that the altar would be a naked woman, with her legs spread on either side of the celebrant; the Sigil of Baphomet on the wall above the inverted cross; and participants must wear black hoods.

Nine Satanic Statements, The Eleven Satanic Rules of the Earth, the Nine Satanic Sins and the Black Mass are the holy texts of LaVeyan Satanism, written by Anton LaVey himself. This is a first-hand account of what LaVeyan Satanism concerns in the perspective of its founder. These sources are both extremely reliable and credible because of that fact. However, since he had passed away and time changes all things, the LaVeyan Satanism we know today might not be what Anton LaVey envisioned in those texts.

Satanic Worship is chosen to be the main discipline in focus of *The Lover* as it provides a slightly goofy side to magic that is not often associated with such demonic undertones. I believe it fits the tone of the story as well as the contrast between *The Lover* and the other two stories in terms of intensity and seriousness. An alternative to this discipline would be Wicca, however it would carry a more nature-bound, scenic connection into the story which might come to be overwhelmed as it is only a short story (Appendix).

Alchemy is the most practical and closest discipline to science in this research, defined by Britannica's article Alchemy as exploring human's relationship with the cosmos and to exploit that relationship.²² It is most commonly known for its heredity with chemistry and how it allows alchemists to transform base metals like lead into precious metals like gold.

Alchemy is a very secretive profession, transmitting and recording in code. This is because in the medieval ages when alchemy was most popular, being able to turn metals into gold is a

¹⁸ (LaVey, 1969)

¹⁹ (LaVey, 1967)

²⁰ (LaVey, 1987)

²¹ (LaVey, 1972)

²² (Gilbert & Multhauf, 2019)

great power. Naturally, with great power comes great responsibility, this power cannot fall into the wrong hands, at least by the alchemists' standard. Alchemists also did this to protect themselves as it acts as a guarantee of their survival, because only they know how to decipher the code.

Despite alchemy's western connotations, it first appeared in China in 4th century BC. It was derived from medicine, not focused on creating precious metal but instead mineral remedies. However, remedies would need testing and too many patients died before a successful case, hence it was abandoned in China. Through commerce, alchemy was then imported into India, which also had a different goal than creating gold and medicine. Indians sought life everlasting through the elixir of life, also known as drinkable gold because gold is a corrosion resistant metal.

Alchemy is the predecessor of chemistry and there certainly are features from which connections can be made. Persian alchemist Ar-Razi classified elements into different classes, the form of which the periodic table would eventually inherit from. Metals, stones, vitriols, borax and salt are regarded as Bodies and mercury, sulphur, orpiment, realgar, Sal ammoniac are considered Spirits. Corrosive liquids or, as it is now called, acids are known as aqua fortis, which translates to strong water. Alcohol is called aqua vitae, water of life.

As previously mentioned, Britannica is a very well-known encyclopaedia which conducts its information professionally. This article is primarily written by Robert P. Multhauf, a senior historian at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC and antiquarian bookseller, Robert A. Gilbert. This article is free of bias, but can be interpreted differently if Robert A. Gilbert's profession was investigated under scrutiny, but for the scope of this research it does not have an effect on the credibility or reliability of this source.

Necromancy plays a major part in modern fantasy media, often associated with rising of the dead. Necromancy comes from nekros and mania, Greek for dead and divination. It was also heavily featured in classical literature, most notably the Bible. In the Old Testament, King Saul summoned the spirit of Samuel with the help of the Witch of Endor for a prediction of a battle against the Philistines the next day. Another famous appearance in classical literature is in Homer's *Odyssey*. Odysseus was directed by the sorcerer Circe to use a spell to ask the spirits of the dead for directions home. Odysseus must read the spirits a rite, before a brew must be made for the ghost. After that, the spirits would cooperate and give Odysseus his directions.

Exploring the Surprising Truth about Necromancy is an entry in Icy Sedgwick's folklore blog and Fabulous Folklore podcast.²³ She also writes and talks about other supernatural concepts

²³ (Sedgwick, 2020)

such as familiars and the zodiac signs. This source explores necromancy's part in history, especially its presence in literature. This source is a secondary source gathering information from reliable primary sources such as *Magic in the Middle Ages* by Richard Kieckhefer, making itself credible and reliable as well.

Modern day necromancy can be found in the religion of Quimbanda. This religion is another product of Colonization similar to voodoo; that of Portuguese rule over African slaves in South America. According to LearnReligion, Quimbanda the counterpart to Umbanda, instead of incorporating catholic saints, Quimbanda rejects its hierarchy.²⁴ It was brought into popularity by the re-Africanization movement in the 20th Century.

Exus represents the male spirits, embodying otherworldly interventions into material matters such as outcomes of legal cases. Pomba-Giras represents the female spirits, embodying interpersonal relationship matters such as romance. Pomba-Giras spirits are a collective, manifesting in different forms. For example, Maria Molambo or the lady of the trash brings bad luck to enemies. Ogum represents the free spirit, often associated with meditation and crossroad decisions.

Trabalhos are rituals carried out by trained officials of Quimbandas to seek advice or intervention from Exus or Pomba-Giras. A dedication must be made to the spirits, sometimes involving a sacrifice. To ask Exus for justice on matters would require white candles and an offering of rum. Assistance with seduction would require a visit to a T-shaped crossroad at midnight.

Quimbanda Religion: History and Beliefs was written by Patti Wigington, who is a bachelor of history at Ohio university. Wigington is familiar with supernatural concepts and otherworldly behaviours with 30 years of experience as a licensed Pagan clergy as well as Pagan educator. She is well-versed with the concepts of Wicca in her book *Wicca Practical Magic*, but in it doesn't concern Quimbanda in anyway. She gives unbiased interpretations on Quimbanda practices as it is, which makes this source credible.

Necromancy is selected in joint with alchemy for *The Enemy* as they are a manipulation in human life as well as a manipulation in the physical world, acting both as a peek into the human soul as well as an illusionary life. An alternative would be Voodoo but there are very religious overtones associated as well as a horror component which if utilised, might seem like a missed opportunity as it would seem underwhelming (Appendix).

Criminal Psychology and Murderers

²⁴ (Wigington, 2019)

Murder is a horrible crime, but the only way to prevent them from happening is to understand why someone kills. J. Warner Wallace categorizes these reasons in his article *Why Do People Become Killers? There Are Only Three Reasons -- Here They Are*.²⁵ Greed is to seek financial or material gain; lust is to seek sexual or relational pleasure; power is to seek authority and respect. Wallace emphasized on the fact that all motives for murder can be broken down into these three factors, no matter how convoluted it may seem at first.

Why Do People Become Killers? There Are Only Three Reasons -- Here They Are is an article for Fox News, published in the light of the 2018 Santa Fe school shooting. Fox News is a reputable source of information, but is also lenient towards the viewpoints of the NRA in the U.S.. This article may be attempting to divert public attention on banning gun ownership in America by providing an alternative reasoning to why these school shootings happen. This source, considering its political background and timing, is completely biased, but the reasoning behind the concepts it proposes is sound.

Murderers are categorized to assist with the capture and prevention of the act. Mass murderers kill four or more victims, in the same location, in the same time frame. Spree murderers kill two or more victims, at different locations, in the same time frame. Serial murderers kill three or more victims, at different location, in different time frames. The main difference between mass murderers and the others is that they kill at one location, while others kill at multiple. The main difference between serial murderers and spree murderers is that serial killers have a cooling off period. After a kill, a spree murderer would look immediately to kill another, while a serial murderer would stop for a prolonged period of time. This time can be several hours, or several years.

Charles Montaldo's article *Mass Murderers, Spree and Serial Killers* also highlights that there are different types of serial killers, each with a respective name.²⁶ A visionary believes they see things that guide them to kill; a missionary believes they kill for a greater cause; a hedonist kills for the thrill and sexual arousal of the act itself; a controller kills for the power and authority a kill grants him or her. Along another scale, a serial murderer can also be organized, disorganized and mixed. Ted Bundy for example would be an organized hedonist as well as controller.

Mass Murderers, Spree and Serial Killers is an article from the ThoughtCo., a "premier reference site with a 20+ year focus on expert-created education content". They are one of the top-10 information sites, as measured by comScore, a leading Internet measurement company, as said on their About Us page. In 2018, ThoughtCo received a Communicator Award in the General Education category and a Davey Award in the Education category. This

²⁵ (Wallace, 2018)

²⁶ (Montaldo, 2020)

article itself have reliable sources, such as the Ronald Holmes, a criminologist at the University of Louisville, and the FBI.

Murderers are the same as everyone on the surface, but their danger rests deep down. BBC's article *Are Murderers Born or Made* explored some theories on how murderers may be physically different from a non-murderer.²⁷ In the 1870s, Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso proposed that murderers shared physical features and that can be used to identify them. This theory was discredited not long after.

When 1980s arrived, functional brain scanning revealed that murderers have a lower activity in the pre-frontal cortex. This made them prone to rage combined with lowered levels of self-control. Professor Adrian Raine, who conducted the brain scan study also linked childhood abuse to murder tendencies as the pre-frontal cortex is extremely vulnerable to physical abuse and damage at a young age would have drastic effects.

A separate study in 1993 uncovered that the men in this family with histories of violence all lacked the same gene. This gene produces the enzyme MAOA which regulates the levels of neurotransmitters involved in impulse control. This gene was later named the Warrior Gene. However, the activation of this gene depends crucially on the person's early years of life, childhood. Since then, more researches have discovered genes with a positive correlation to violent behaviour.

At last, this source draws its conclusion with a case study of its own. Professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Jim Fallon has all a large amount of genes associated with so-called "serial killer genes", but is a respectable professor. Fallon had a fortunate upbringing and was a "happy" child, and expressed, "So just a gene by itself, the variant doesn't really dramatically affect behaviour, but under certain environmental conditions there is a big difference."

The BBC is the most prominent news agency in the UK, and lots of other parts of the world. It is respectable, however it had also been under scrutiny for rumoured biased stances. In comparison to the source from Fox News, this article is less apparent with a political ulterior motive if there any intended. This article is made of reliable sources such as professor Jim Fallon and professor Adrian Raine, making it more credible in comparison.

²⁷ (BBC_News, 2015)

Political Oppression and Tyranny

A tyrant is well-known but often misunderstood. According to Britannica, a tyrant is not necessarily a bad ruler by default.²⁸ They have absolute power and no legal restraints to hold them in place but the person in that position is ultimately the deciding factor. More often than not, as Sir John Dalberg-Acton said, “absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

According to the New Yorker’s article *Field Guide to Tyranny and How to Be a Dictator: The Cult of Personality in the Twentieth Century* by Frank Dikötter, there are four defining feature of an oppressive tyrant.²⁹ Firstly, the rise of the tyrant would always be catalysed by the support of self-deluding opportunists, like old Bolsheviks to Joseph Stalin and Franz von Papen to Adolf Hitler.

Secondly, once tyrants secures power and proceed to purge those dangerous to them, they would associate themselves with a realistic figure larger than himself and the people, often from national history. Hitler used the concept of Aryan history, paired with the grandeur of the Valhalla gods, gives him “righteous” and “divine” power. Francois Duvalier connected his rule to animism of Haitian voodoo during his presidency, presenting himself as the vessel of the cemetery spirit Baron Samedi.

Thirdly, the turning point of a tyrant’s rule comes when the people turn against the ruler. Competitors of authority would sense the turn of the tide and take advantage, pushing their leader’s downfall into motion. Nicolae Ceaușescu witnessed his turning point during his Bucharest speech in 1989, people chanting for his demise. This led to the irreversible spread of the Romanian Revolution to end communism, which eventually led to the execution of Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena Ceaușescu.

Lastly, the key to sustaining a tyrannical rule is elevate a tyrant’s status to that above their fellow mortals. Similar to the second point however this involves no historical persona. An important strategy to build toward this effect is to control when and for how long they appear to the public, building a sense of mystery. Mao establishes himself a figure closer to god to the people, making unexpected appearances throughout the reinforcement of his power and purging. Stalin and Hitler was absent for much of the conflict they belonged to, and the people had lost their admiration of their tyrant.

Field Guide to Tyranny is a summary and review of the contents of *How to Be a Dictator: The Cult of Personality in the Twentieth Century* by Frank Dikötter. The article was written with humour, as well as satire against past oppressive historical figures in power. The New

²⁸ (Lewis, 2019)

²⁹ (Gopnik, 2019)

Yorker is a renowned publisher of weekly journalism. In addition to reporting events like news agencies, the New Yorker also provides its own commentary, that of the article's author. Adam Gopnik is an author of nine books, and receiver of numerous awards in journalism and criticism. Frank Dikötter is a historian that specializes in modern China and the chair professor of humanities in the University of Hong Kong. Both of these writers are reliable and the reasoning of the features are sound and credible.

As Frank Dikötter said, the Communist Party of China is one of the most successful oppressive rules, the fact that they still stand is a testimony of their resilience. Their tyranny were brought back into the public eye with the situation in Xinjiang with Uyghurs, as well as with their advances on Hong Kong via the Hong Kong Extradition Bill. South China Morning Post released the 4 part documentary series, Hong Kong Protests – China's Rebel City, detailing incidents from the reading of the Extradition Bill to the passing of the National Security Law.³⁰

The second reading of the Hong Kong Extradition Bill took place on the 9th of June, 2019. It had the appearance of helping bring justice to a murderer that had fled prosecution to Hong Kong. If the bill were to be passes, it would allow capture of political refugees by Beijing on Hong Kong soil. It was assured on paper that there would be built-in protection against abuse and that local courts would have the final say in matters, but the people were not convinced. The government underestimated the opposition and backlash of the people, whom took to the streets to voice their concern.

Violence were implemented by both the police and the people. While the crowd used medieval tactics like road blocks made of trash to stop the reading, police used tear gas to disperse crowds after setting up cordons and given out warnings. This was first of many conflicts between the people and the police, but its significance lies in the fact that it demonstrated the police and violence as the government's only weapon, "to hit them until they shut up and back down".

On the 1st of July, following a peaceful march of protest, a splinter group of radicals rushed the Legislative Council building. Riot police arrived and stood ground outside the building, however retreated just before the radicals arrived. This marked an incredible escalation in intensity of the protests, followed by the defacement of the Beijing Liaison building on the 21st of July.

On that same night, after the protests had gone down, crowds of men wearing white shirts targeted returning protesters in the Yuen Long Train Station. The violence were carried out by civilians, intended against returning protesters, but soon out of control and indiscriminate. It

³⁰ (Hong Kong Protests -- China's Rebel City, 2020)

took the police 39 minutes to respond, with video evidence that patrol officers had arrived at the scene, and quickly turned around to retreat without issuing any sort of intervention. It was later confirmed that the men in white were triad members.

Suspicious that Beijing, police and triads were cooperating to stop protests poured fuel to the flame of the protests, which heightened into city-wide paralysis. Public transportation were hindered, roads blocked, and worker strikes took place in multiple airlines. The occupation of the Hong Kong International Airport on the 5th of August attracted international awareness, with both positive and negative perspectives. On one hand displaying unity and strength, Mainland arrivals from China were accused of being spies among other harassments, ferocity of the protesters on full display. Leaders in the occupation realized they had gone too far, left and apologized the next morning.

On the 1st of September, the Extradition Bill was formally withdrawn by Carrie Lam, however it was too little too late. The protesters issued their five demands to the government, including the full withdrawal of the Extradition Bill, the initiation of an independent investigation into police conduct, retracting the classification of protesters as “rioters”, amnesty for the arrested “rioters”, and the resignation of Carrie Lam as Chief Executive and universal suffrage for both the Legislative Council and Chief Executive.

Escalation of violence reached a new level on the National Day of China. An 18 year-old protester was shot at close range, alongside 5 other rounds fired. The teen survived after surgery, but arrested upon recovery. The separation of society was also displayed clearly that day. Yellow stands for the supporters of the protest, while blue stands for the opposition of protests, in support of establishment and police. Vigilante violence occurred as a result; anyone who announce their political stance in public would be a victim to harassment.

On the 8th of November, Chow Tsz-lok died after plummeting off a multi-storey carpark right after police carried out clearance operations nearby. There were no tangible evidence linking them together, but suspicions were raised and sparked an international wave of criticism against police brutality in Hong Kong. Police responded with the stance that violence is subjective to its observers. “Some see brutality and viciousness, while others see ‘child’s play’. This statement can be said for both side.”

On the 24th of November, protesters abandoned their usual guerrilla tactics and stood their ground in the campus of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Protesters were surrounded from all sides, and the police besieged the campus. The government’s prolonged indecisiveness to act led to a landslide victory in the municipal-level council election for the anti-establishment candidates. Even though it was said to be a landslide victory,

anti-establishment gained 1.6 million votes while pro-establishment gained 1.2 million votes; evident to the massive social divide.

As 2020 drew close, Covid-19 spread its first case in Hong Kong. This is not unprecedented as Hong Kong was tried by the fire of SARS in 2003; it did keep people off the streets but the protests did not die down. The intensity of the protests and fear of the pandemic kept at an equilibrium until the middle of year as June 4th drew near. Annual memorials in Victoria Park had been banned, but thousands defied the ban. The government was seen as using the pandemic as an excuse to ban public mass protests, which only provoked more people to protest.

After the June 4th defiance, the central government's top legislative body unanimously passes the National Security Law for Hong Kong on the 30th of June. In the documentary, it was said that "Beijing, who left it to the Hong Kong government to take care of protests the previous year, now begins to step in directly, citing a threat to national security and accusing foreign governments of interference it can no longer tolerate". It outlaws acts of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. The National Security Law is a clear undermining of freedom and intended for stifling future dissent, beginning the end of the "one country, two system" policy.

Predictably, this sparked more protests of rebellions, but this time not for withdrawal but independence from China. Protesters have acknowledged that alone they wouldn't be heard, and called for international intervention by the US and UK. On the other hand, this made Hong Kong a battleground for confrontation between China and US, complicating their already severe trade war. Serious sanctions were placed on Hong Kong, led by the US, which would lead to the city losing its economic and political worth.

In response to the passing of the National Security Law, protests rushed the streets on the 1st. The new law allowed the targeting of pro-independence flags and chanting of slogans; vandalism of property are perceived as terrorism which can result in life-imprisonment. The newly established National Security Police Force arrested 400 protesters on the first day of the law's implementation.

South China Morning Post's documentary finished with a call to action from former Secretary for Security Regina Ip, "We've ran away from our problems long enough, now it's time to face them. This is a make or break point for Hong Kong, deciding ... the "one country, two system" policy, our level of autonomy. 23 three years we've had, ... and now things are coming a head."

South China Morning Post is a Hong Kong-based English-language newspaper. It is owned by the Alibaba Group, a giant Chinese conglomerate. This obviously would bring bias into consideration as properties of Chinese-owned groups often adopt Chinese political views to gain revenue. However, the Alibaba Group was owned by Jack Ma as a private property, only recently claimed by the Chinese government. The newspaper's maintenance had also been threatened as its political stance was not aligned with the government's. This newspaper is biased nonetheless, if not one way then the other. This newspaper provides a people's perspective of the occurrences surrounding the two legislations, antagonizing the government and power. South China Morning Post is a credible source, but not the most reliable one.

Artefact

Contact me directly if you wanna read it :)

Conclusion

Well, I wrote a series of short stories. I did what I set out to do and I feel great about it, even though it wasn't to the magnitude I originally intended. But I feel great, because writing is what I enjoy and I enjoyed writing these short stories.

In this project I took a deep dive into magic as a whole. I found out about the different disciplines that the word "magic" encapsulates, as well as how it came to be and what different anthropologists thought about the concept. The thing that intrigued me most was not how two religions merged together to form Haitian Voodoo nor how Gerald Gardner used witchcraft to keep the Nazis at bay, but the construction of the concept itself. We have all heard that magic is just science we are yet to understand, but Sigmund Freud believed in a more detailed procedure that had constructed the concept of magic out of thin air. Magic is just something that was created to make the nonsensical at the time make sense, or to recreate circumstances that generated a desirable result the first time around. It was the attempt to methodise, more often than not, good fortune.

On the other hand, planning was a skill I had had a love-hate relationship with over the course of the project. I had originally set out to write five short stories of around six to seven thousand words, but ended up with 3 short stories of ten thousand words. I had underestimated the effort and time the writing process required, as well as overestimated my own ability to maintain on course. I bit off more than I could chew and had to trim down the project in the end. In hindsight, I believe there were multiple factors which led me to straying away from my plan in the beginning.

Firstly, I had a hard time recognizing my priorities in the perspective of the project or perhaps recognized them a bit too well as a whole. I needed to juggle different things alongside this project such as my UCAS application, school commitments, and obviously my A Level exams. I focused heavily on EPQ before all of these things had come into view so that I can divert more time to them when I need to, but that didn't work as it dragged on into when the other priorities started. After those other priorities came into view, I had to commit to them because they simply are more important and crucial to the project.

Secondly, I had overestimated my ability to write. It is extremely hard to write and I knew this when I took on this task, and I spent time researching strategies and methods in effort to overcome this challenge. From where I stand, I'm not sure they helped at all. I felt like it affected me just as much, perhaps if I had not followed those strategies I would've struggled even more. Because of the speed at which I was writing at, I had to reduce the number of

stories I wrote, but I was still satisfied as I believe these three stories were genuinely well written.

Lastly, I struggled with maintaining motivation for this project. I chose to do this project because I wanted to write, and towards the end I had done that. I finish my stories and I did what I set out to do. However I still had parts of the project left to do and it was hard to convince myself that I was motivated to do this part of my project. On the other hand, we were pressing closer and closer to exam time and I really needed all the time I can have to revise. I spoke with my teacher advisor, and he told me that I had already done so much, why stop there and let everything else go to waste.

The thing was that I wasn't letting everything go to waste. I had accomplished something I think is great and proud of. So perhaps this is just a courtesy to whoever decides to pick this up and reads this.

I don't think I'd do much differently if I were to do this project again. Of course I wouldn't have to go through all the test out problems I faced this time around but that was necessary. I would be lying if I said I could've changed my priorities to make it so that I spend more time on the project; I did what I had to do because those things were more important than this project, like my UCAS application. On top of that I can't really say I'll write faster next time because frankly it comes differently to different people.

I suppose the only thing I would do differently would be to minimize the scope of my research and of course, manage my motivation a bit better. Doing that I suppose I could've finished the project a bit quicker than what I have currently, sparing me more time to write the stories but what good would it have done me, I had done other useful things like revision for my A Level mock exams. And in the end I finished it, I done it just like I intended at the start but it just took a bit longer than I expected.

Evaluation

The presentation was carried out in an Expo stall format, where we would station ourselves with a tri-board in assistance to our presentation. Guests and teacher judges would wonder in the hall from stall to stall and we would talk about our project to small groups of people, often answering questions as this would be a more conversation approach to the presentation.

I had around three main groups of people approach my stall, but there were stragglers coming in between groups as well. I had a hard time knowing when to start my dialogue of introducing my project because sometimes they would thank me and walk off before I finish, and then another person would show up and I would have to start over again.

In the end, I realised that maybe just answering the questions they ask me would make an easier, smoother and more natural response instead of trying to read off a script and going into detail at every aspect of my project. I would answer their questions with as in depth of an elaboration as I can, and then I would merge it into another small aspect of my project to try and fit it onto the flow. On the other hand, I also paid attention to giving suitable pauses in between points, providing them with gaps to ask any questions they might have about the previous section. The approach was very successful and I had a much more comfortable time with the rest of my project.

I believe I had made good use of the tri-board as visual aid to my project. I displayed all the areas of research I have conducted, the name of the stories with a quote from each, and the challenges that I have encountered. I had prepared these components in Microsoft Powerpoint, and printed out each slide to stick onto the tri-boards. I had added in a couple of images related to the project, but they were scarce and few between as time didn't allow for much more. I suppose I should've used a bit more images to make my visual aid more physically appealing, instead of a tri-board made up of a majority of words.

Just before the presentation, a teacher advisor of another classmate had come up to me and inquired about my project. She also suggested that I should perhaps have had my actual artefact printed and displayed. Shame that I didn't have time to manage that before the presentation, but my alternative solution was to display it on my computer. It wasn't ideal as the font got really hard to see, but it was available for those who really wished to see it. As my project had no requirement for me to make a hardcopy version of the manuscript in the form of a book, I do not believe it affected my presentation one bit. On top of that, at the end of the presentation session, I found a member of the audience sat on the floor reading *The Self* on my laptop computer.

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Appendix

Story 1: The Enemy

Theme:

- People of the yellow earth does not understand the strive for more than what they have. They are satisfied with what they have and never want to risk what they have for something more, being very conservative. Cowards, unchallenging, cockroach on a global scale.
- Oppression methods: obvious scare tactics, unreasonable, outright power moves, media control, propaganda, charisma
- How oppression affects different types of people, in different classes, with different status

Characters:

- MC (Unreliable narrator):
 - o Powers inherited from MK Ultra experiments □ voodoo section
 - Allows him to erase and construct new memories
 - Works within a certain range, once outside immediate reversal
 - Requires sigils to produce area of effect □ badge of the prison
 - Can only affect memories, not the feelings or attitudes, therefore must understand what makes a person tick (explore characters)
 - Voodoo
 - Warden is from a race of oppressed racial minority under the rule
 - They harness this power from fusing it together with the major religion of the people of the yellow earth
 - Crew doesn't understand why he had been so well under control for the government
 - o Warden
 - Works as warden because believes this is enough, people of yellow earth
 - Mind set in stone on finding rebels
 - Routine checks of prisoners' thoughts, acts as the benchmark of the rebellion
 - Return to the start at the end (Heaven Sent)
 - Pose as a prison guard that wants to join the outside resistance in rescuing their leader
- Resistance leader:
 - o Middle class
 - Perfect profile for the government to set up as Manchurian candidate

- Close enough to the upper circle without being upper class because the lower classes would never relate to a rich snob
 - Communicate easier because less gap
 - Opportunist salesperson □ greed
- Perfect profile as a leader of the resistance
 - Government policy: sanctions on foreign products to encourage internal economy between states and provinces
 - Led to unrest among small time foreign importing companies
 - Big conglomerates are claimed by the government as state owned assets because they are necessary
 - Act like he's sticking up for the little guys □ appeal to lower class
- Looked up to by his peers and followers
- Talked about a lot by companions of MC
- Took into custody early on in the rebellion, became a symbol instead of a leader □ martyr status
 - No actual work or resistance actually through his leading, only influenced by his act
- Actually was just an employee by the government, wanted to enter the prison itself because treatment is good
 - Government had to create a resistance to its oppression because that is the only way of keeping the society in equilibrium
 - Government creates a problem, realizes that they have to solve this resistance problem, but it's fine because they have soldiers like the warden and they know their every move because they are the ones that created the resistance
- Locke:
 - Lower class
 - Reluctant to join group because he is under mind control
 - First hint at the leader's reveal, foreshadowing
 - Convicted of assaulting an officer
 - During protest, things got heated and physical
 - Police finger shoved into mouth and he bit off that section of the police's finger
 - Representation of the government's scare tactics: natural reflexes for 14 years in super max prison
 - Breaks down because he fell for the same trick twice:
 - Regrets going to protest, landed him 14 years
 - Gets tricked again when he joined the escape
 - Breaks down when the reveal ends

- Archibald:
 - o Middle class
 - o Direct comparison with the leader when reveal
 - Real leader of the revolution
 - Red hot metal piping through his rebellious veins □ son of the revolution
 - Loyalty to his people
 - The small percentage of the people of the yellow earth that isn't a coward
 - Breaks down when his leader rejected him
 - He is the beacon of his ideology
 - Blindly loyal, deadly loyal
 - o Gets questioned on the validity of this mission, because leader has been missing for so long, why would they need him
 - Lying to himself, understands that the leader is not crucial but needs him there because he needs someone to rely on
 - Rescues the leader because he has ran out of ideas to rebel now, only course of action to keep dynamic
 - Knows the rebellion is a dead end, but still trudging on because lying to himself is easier than accepting the truth
- Prudence:
 - o Upper class
 - o Hired gun for the locks and guns
 - o High horse
 - o Wants to separate himself from the rebellion □ tells people he does this because he wants the money
 - o "You chose the wrong side again, name, I'm interested to know when you're going to change"
 - o Represents the people that attempts to separate themselves with the issue:
 - It never works because it does concern them whether they like it or not
 - Try to ignore it so they can live on peacefully in their minds □ lying to themselves "Business as usual"
 - Separation by defining themselves of another interest □ money
- Prisoners (mass):
 - o Mind broken
 - o Propaganda driven
 - o Wanted to cause riot but nothing happens: bombing as a last resort
 - o Not finger biter because specially excluded for the inspection
 - o Keep as constant force, represents the powerlessness of the people in the face of absolute power

Storyline:

- Events in the perspective of the Warden
 - No describing feelings
 - Just how things would appear to the rest of the group
 - Really through the perspective of the rest of the group
1. Introduction to the group, in an underground basement
 - a. Deliver exposition to explain the revolution and rebellion
 - b. Introduce the crew
 - c. Crew questions Archie about the validity of the mission, it is already enough now, why need him? Because we are not savages that let our comrades die so we can tend to a cause, we will win together. What if we lose? We will do that together as well.
 - d. Add the fact that it would be easier during this switch because all clairvoyant guards would be off (link to the next story)
 2. Meeting Finger Biter in solitary
 - a. Archie recognizes finger biter, who was eager to leave
 - b. Finger biter told MC and Archie that everyone there was under a spell but that he seemed to have escaped it
 - c. Orders MC to let her out because he is a part of the revolution
 - d. Moral discussion about who to let out and who not to because everyone is in there for the same reason, rebelling against the government on their notice, do we only let out those we remember the names for, where do we draw the line?
 3. Into the Prison
 - a. MC carries out conversation with Finger Biter about scare tactics and lower class sufferings
 - b. Prison construct is explained thoroughly (random guard rotas, lax security during mass rota reset, great timing)
 - c. MC gets some doors open and mercenary detains guards (some action), makes them wear prisoner wear, escort them through the prison as an excuse
 - d. Gets to general population
 - i. Everyone is asleep, cannot let them know they are here or they will cause commotion and alert guards
 - ii. So peaceful, dormant, sleeping army
 - iii. Strength of the revolution on display, Archie says, but actually just a shell, later revealed
 - e. MC acknowledges the struggle Archie is concerned with, tells him a plan to use remote detonate explosives as a last resort to cause chaos
 4. Leader's den
 - a. Reaches the Leader's room at the top of the tower of death
 - b. Gets in and not at all what they expect

- c. Nothing was inside that room, empty dark room with a cap on the floor
- d. MC pushes through the group from the back into the front and grabs the cap from the floor and puts it on
- e. Warden reveals himself and says
 - i. Quite risky, one of the more fun checks he's been on
 - ii. Mercenary chose to fail again, how sentimental
 - iii. Alright, well that's the end of the check. That's all for today folks.
 - iv. Tries to get close to them to wipe clean and reset
- f. Finger biter breaks down, telling everyone that the warden had mind controlled them
 - i. Warden gets offended, it's not mind control
 - ii. I'm not a clairvoyant, they had so much potential but they always risked going through the empathy barrier
 - iii. Tells everyone what he had to change to make them predictable
- g. Archie has a plan
 - i. Took out the explosive trigger, threatened warden to let them and the leader go
 - ii. "You do realize he's not real" "You're lying, he's coming with me or I'm unleashing hell on this place."
 - iii. Finger biter spirals beside them, desperation surface "there's nothing you can do"
- h. Warden keeps coming closer and Archie pulls the trigger, warden sighs and does magic to stop all the prisoners from getting out
- i. One prisoner even came out and looked for a guard to understand what had happened
- j. Sigils are injected into the bloodstreams of everyone, including everyone from the outside, from the first test □ it was inside of them the whole time
- k. That's enough, warden says

Story 2: The Self

Theme:

- Violence is a disease that contaminates the mind, it is infectious in the same way yawning is infectious
- The transformation of murder from something you regret, to someone you acknowledge, to something you enjoy

Characters:

- Detective
 - o Strong, rational, careful, level-headed, cold, calculating, uncompromising
 - o But very naïve
 - She hasn't had much of a life outside of her training and education
 - No experiences of care from being an orphan -> no experience of grief
 - Makes her new to emotions that tells will grant her -> less resistant to damage
 - o Well-trained in the academy of clairvoyance, one of the best of her class to graduate
 - Recommended to police department as an assistant detective to solve crimes
 - First clairvoyant to get a job offer like that, therefore lots of unknowns and accidents
 - o Clairvoyance
 - Mistook to be the understanding of actual events happening, in which detective is known to excel in areas of vision and a little of emotions
 - Instead is the emotions of what the person in perspective is feeling
 - The brain formulates an interpretation of events from the emotions
 - However, brains are of different capacities
 - Some emotions are very strong, may cause damage similar to sensory overload
 - Because emotions delve much deeper into functions of the brain, the damage is often irreparable and not physical
 - Detective would be overwhelmed by the emotions the attacker was feeling and her mind would crumble // infected with violence
 - The "kill" in the background of the page would become more and more prominent until the words from the page are unreadable
- Murderer
 - o Quiet and secluded man, not much friends, no living family, 17 people in relation, 17 victims
 - o Was a weathered, but kind man
 - Tried to warn detective before it was too late
 - o An ex-special forces operative

- Worked as a clairvoyant interrogator
- Reflects the cruelty of the government, detective should have been the first clairvoyant in association to armed forces but behind their backs
- Hint at the fact that this can be a government ploy all along, government used murderer to state that clairvoyance should be implemented in armed services and enforcement
- Had a high capacity of emotions because he had a normal life rather than a sheltered one like the detective's
- But interrogations broke his capacity and he gets infected with violence and murderous thoughts
- Accountant
 - o School friend of murderer, not seen in a couple of decades
 - o Likes to talk, a lot, blabbermouth
 - o Man with a family, 2 daughters, the suburban life
 - o First victim
 - o Head accountant to the governor's office, relations to the case
 - o Had quarrels towards the end of school with murderer, feels uneasy all the way through his life, maybe longing for someone to punish him
 - Got with the girl murderer liked after they had gone to separate schools and stopped talking after that
- Army buddy
 - o Supervisor of murderer in army unit
 - o Understands what the murderer is
 - o Close relationship with murderer, closest to family he's got
 - o Do not believe murderer is capable of doing something like that
 - o Calm, reasonable, forgiving even in her last moments
 - o Backpacker across the country
 - o Involve herself in charity work overseas, but uses her duo-passport because foreigners hate soldiers
 - Not much real presence in the world because she uses her other passport so much
- Governor
 - o Opposition of the implementation of supernatural personnel in populated land
 - Main power believes they should, therefore they can have more power
 - Governor believes that they are ready for enforcement use, must understand more thoroughly before they can implement it
 - It is a power they cannot control and will suffer a harrowing death
 - His death is the exact case of his point, however the irony is that him being dead would then make it possible for the main power to do it

- o Teacher of murderer in the academy, a mentor student relationship built on respect and expectations

Storyline:

- First person perspective
 - “kill” will be written all over the page on every page, very translucent to begin with but grows exponentially like bacteria until in the end the words on the page would no longer be visible
 - Plot centred story, no much interaction between characters, everything is in place to further the plot
 - Fast pace, but clearly separated parts with rests in between labelling them
 - Exposition will be needed, but must be used subtly, and very carefully to not feel like info dumps
1. Black box recording of CO detective, aka lost sailor
 2. Car door
 - a. Upon exit of the car and entrance into the police station, parallel to celebrity on red carpet
 - b. Lots of people outside
 - i. Protesting the use of supernatural personnel in enforcement
 - ii. Supporting her in the use of supernatural enforcement
 - iii. People calling her freak and spitting on her
 - iv. Church groups condemning her
 - v. News reporters like jackals trying to get her views on this
 - vi. Mics shoved in her face, flashes, invasion of her privacy, no personal space, fear, anger, confusion, disoriented
 - vii. Police barricade treats her with no respect because they would lose their jobs if she comes on
 - c. Greeted by inspector
 - i. Misogynistic comments maybe?
 - ii. Briefing
 1. death of the governor and murderer’s medical condition
 2. behaviours of the murderer
 - a. polite and kind
 - b. quiet
 - c. special forces
 - iii. Tells her suspicious of political assassination because of the governor’s stance on the supernatural enforcement issue
 - iv. Therefore look for a well-organized terrorism network
 - d. Murderer lies silently in his bed, head bandaged and nurse tending to his life support machine

- e. Inspector disrespects her, causes detective to lash out and shut him up, ends up getting her coffee
- 3. "Alias Investigation" style door
 - a. Greeted by the secretary, ignored and stormed in
 - b. Accountant recognizes murderer and tells his secretary it's okay
 - c. He welcomes him into his office and acts as if he feels uncomfortable, says things Americans say every time they see an old friend
 - d. Accountant assumes position of dominance getting up on the desk and having murderer sitting in front of him
 - e. After accountant cannot seem to get murderer to respond, he turns to worrying and scared and tries to get him to go out and treat him to dinner and talk about how he can make it up to him
 - f. Murderer gets up, walks around the room, looks at all the pictures and trophies in his cabinets while accountant talks about non-sense and blabber on
 - g. Arrives at the accountant's desk and looks through his files, accountant becomes defensive about those files and says that they are accounts for a client
 - h. Detective understands that that client is the governor
 - i. Accountant turns from cowardly and reminiscing to defensive and rude, gets murderer's attention
 - j. Murderer laughs, laughs a lot and accountant slowly laughs with him
 - k. "we good? Are we good? Oh we good?" and then murderer slices accountant's throat wide open
 - l. Lights everything in his office on fire before leaving
 - m. Exits the room, secretary already in panic mode and shoots her in the head before she can call the police
 - n. Blood splattered on his face, snapped back into reality, hyperventilating
 - o. Exits the building and walks up to a store window
 - p. Proceeds to close his eyes and smile but hands are moving around his pocket and dialling in a number
 - q. "Miss, you need to get out while you still can, that means now!" and then more laughing
 - r. Makes deductions:
 - i. The knife is a possible recurring weapon as the murderer used a gun to quickly execute the secretary but used a knife to kill accountant, could have sentimental value
 - ii. Phone call
 - 1. "Miss" suggests female

2. Message is a warning, suggests someone murderer cares about
 3. This man does not fit the profile of an assassin as he has a relatively active social life and his records are everywhere
 4. Therefore he must have had either a trigger point or a leverage, no trigger points, only leverage
 5. Detective is looking for someone close to murderer, female, with potential of engaging in extremist or mercenary activities
 6. Leads to army buddy
4. Motel door
- a. Twisted door handle, nothing happened, crouched down to pick lock
 - b. Enters room, hears shower running, scans the room and see clothes neatly drying on chairs and lamps
 - c. Took clothes off of the hangers and brought them to a chair, sat down and folded them irregularly in strange patterns
 - d. Mid way through the pile, army buddy opened the door with gun ready and battle stance
 - e. Steam from the bathroom filled the room, making everything wet and the glass blurry
 - f. Guard down and asked why he had to sneak up on her like that
 - g. Immediately takes gun out of clothes pile and points at her
 - h. She tries to put her gun up again, he says “uh-uh” and shakes his head
 - i. Gets up, pushing her back into the bathroom with the gun and shoved her inside the bath tub
 - j. “What are you doing, murderer? Did something happen? You know you can always tell me. What happened? Did someone hurt you? Did someone make you do something?” keep repeating
 - k. Looks at the hair dryer on the counter, “always wanted to see if this actually works”
 - l. “Did you see something?” Something snapped, something hit a mark “You saw something, you’re seeing something. What do you see? Tell me what you see?”
 - m. Smacked her across the face using the hair dryer “It’s not what I see, it’s what I feel.” Snaps back “Shut up.”
 - n. Turns hair dryer on, holds his arm, “Let me help you, please!”
 - o. Shoves it down the bathtub, smoke comes out of the hairdryer, nothing else happens
 - p. “Well that’s anticlimactic. Nevermind that” makes eye contact , continues to strangle her with the chord of the hair dryer

- q. Made sure she was not moving, then changed grip to break her neck
 - r. Walks back out of the bathroom, retrieves the knife from the pile of clothes and re-enters the bathroom
 - s. Continues to penetrate the top of the head, between two eyes, between the collarbones, middle of the ribcage, the chicken heart, the belly button and base of the spine
 - i. Penetrations to the skull took multiple tries to get the knife out
 - ii. Repeated stabbing of the third eye
 - t. Little chuckle after the kill, after leaving army buddy drowning in her own blood
 - u. Nothing is making sense to detective, there weren't any of these marks in the autopsy files given to her yesterday, her cause of death was the strangulation, not the stabbings
 - v. She believes the murder of the governor will reveal everything
5. Double dark oak doors
- a. Used the veteran anonymous as excuse and entered the townhall building
 - b. Governor gets on stage to make a speech, and after the speech, goes to meet him in the hallway
 - c. "what the hell man? I thought you weren't coming? You didn't return any of my calls."
 - d. Invites him up to his room, explained how he's the hot potato now, so security is all the way up
 - e. Casual talking about the good old days, be verbal, and more carefree than usual
 - f. "You seem so happy man. Haven't seen you this happy since, well, since before you got selected to go on that mission" "Yeah, that mission changed me man, but now I'm back I can put it behind me yeah? Feels like a huge load off my back"
 - g. Slowly steer conversation into his experiences in warzone as interrogator
 - i. I actually worked as a clairvoyant
 - ii. Interrogating is hard man
 - iii. Clairvoyant is not seeing, it is feeling
 - iv. One day I just broke
 - v. The void consuming him
 - vi. And everything had been much better
 - h. Pulls governor close and says "now you will too", stares at the reflection of herself in his glasses
 - i. Stabs governor through the chin
 - j. She realizes this is a trap, and that it might be too late
 - i. The meaning of his reply to army buddy

- ii. The mirrors hiding the progression of the void
- iii. The phone call wasn't for the army buddy, it was for her
- iv. The virus had been deliberately hiding itself from her
- v. The knife is evidence of it subconsciously affecting her brain
- k. She exits her tell, but finds herself in the room with the murderer, when she actually entered her tell in the evidence locker
- l. Knife in hand, she goes full panic mode, "kills" coming out of the page
- m. Bandaged head suddenly turned to her and a screech was let out, followed by laughing and wide opened eyes
- n. "You too shall find the void now!"
- o. "kill"
- 6. End of recording
- 7. "kill"

Story 3: The Lover

Theme:

- It's never as bad as you think it is, and nothing really matters, and no one will really notice you
- Just do what you do, take opportunities and make sure you won't regret anything
- Loneliness is not something you escape, you just have to turn it into solitude and be okay with it

Characters:

- Eden
 - o Overthinking everything he does and constantly feels like he is trapped by something
 - o Realizes that his life is about to change and really just wants to get the last best bits out of it before it changes forever
 - o Worries that he is going to miss out on things and that he might regret later on
- Naomi
- Phil (Mephisto)
 - o Just kind of there, it is his job to be there
 - o Listens to whatever Eden has to say
 - o Basically a more sarcastic Genie in a bottle
 - o Looks like a judge with his court
- Carson
 - o The friend that made Eden smoke weed, or actually

Storyline:

1. Getting in (First person)
 - a. Exposition monologue: FOMO and life is about to change forever
 - b. Wake up routine
 - i. Phone
 - ii. Courage
 - iii. Sock in the door
 - iv. Finger guns at the bed
 - v. Sit on the toilet with shoulder blades hanging on his body
 - vi. Brushes teeth standing on one leg
 - vii. Dunks head over the bath and wets hair
 - viii. Wipe eyes with towel
 - c. In school, start of the last semester of his second to last year
 - i. Friends excited about the summer
 - ii. Friends talking about where to go and how fun it was going to be
 - iii. Friends talking about jobs and cars and relationships
 1. Gets pulled into trance about Naomi
 - iv. Talks about beach

- v. Goes to beach
 - 1. Play games, drink beer, and summons demon
 - a. Black hood is handed out to everyone
 - b. Naked female mannequin
 - c. Inverted cross
 - d. Baphomet sigil in the sand
 - e. Chalice and black bread on the mannequin
 - f. Ritual book
 - g. Plays Marchant on spotify
 - h. Foam sword
 - i. Piece of wool carpet
 - j. Burns incense
 - d. Eden stands way too close to the incense and passes out
- 2. Game (Second person)
 - a. Rules
 - i. You review memories
 - ii. You feel what you felt during the memories
 - iii. And you make a decision at the end of the review
 - iv. Phil is fair
 - b. Introduction (C)
 - i. Meet outside of room and had a substitute teacher
 - ii. Sat next to each other because everyone else seemed to have a friend group
 - iii. Got to talking instead of doing any sort of work
 - iv. 1st and 2nd emotional monologue
 - c. Jealousy and return (L)
 - i. 3rd emotional monologue
 - ii. Seeing you talk to other people and laughing
 - iii. 4th emotional monologue
 - iv. Gives string
 - v. 5th emotional monologue
 - d. Reconsolidation (D)
 - i. Last emotional monologue
- 3. Conclusion (Combo)
 - a. Rejection (Second person)
 - i. “no”, you said
 - b. Daily life continues (First person)
 - i. Repeating his ritual of starting the day to indicate nothing really changes, all of his routines, all of his worries
 - ii. Hits limit of a month

- iii. Hits gavel
- iv. Nothing comes
- v. After all, how can this be fair