

Author: _____

Complex Storyline Planner

Use this guide to plan your next writing project!

Prospective Titles: _____

POV: First, Second, or Third
Person? _____

Quick Concept: In 10 words or less, conceptualize your story. Give yourself an idea of the storyline using inspirations or influences. Get your wheels turning by colliding two or more ideas into one simple idea.

Ex: Country girl meets Hollywood / The spy gets spied on / An island whodunit

Characters: List the names of your characters, their importance/relationship to the story (*main character, best friend to main character, antagonist*), ages, races, identifying factors (*speech patterns & dialects, accents and physical traits that are important to character development*). Briefly describe their story arc, starting with their backstory, but don't go into great detail - save that for later!

Setting(s): Describe the setting(s) within the story in great detail. This will assist the story-telling. Be mindful when using real locations; some locations will be either limiting or freeing to characters, so keep the essence of the location and be realistic as possible, unless the setting is made up.

Main Conflict: What is the protagonist fighting against? Be descriptive, but use one of the following types of conflict as a base to develop your problem.

Man vs. Man
Man vs. Nature
Man vs. Society
Man vs. Fate
Man vs. Technology
Man vs. Self

Story Chronology: In what sequence will the story be told? Linear (beginning to end), Reverse (end to beginning), or Nonlinear (no chronological order)? Will there be flashbacks or flash forwards?

Linear
Reverse
Nonlinear
Flashbacks
Flashforwards

Story-Specific "Signifiers": This section is designated for fictional elements of your world that will play major roles in your story. Specify any and all defining and significant aspects of the story: special dates, made-up traditions, made up languages (a list of common words and their meanings), and the most relevant backstories or histories.

Research: Create a list of topics to research to improve the story's authenticity.

Story Timeline: Now is the time to flesh out your story based on the chronology you chose. This is where you write out whatever comes to mind. Don't hold anything back! Note: You don't have to write out the timeline in the order it will appear in the story; sometimes you know the ending before you know anything else. Write down your ideas, no matter where you are in the timeline, and note where it should take place in the story. Don't be afraid to write out imperative dialogue that you want to incorporate into the story! You may need to go back and revisit the timeline to make changes before starting your story to ensure the story's continuity and development stays consistent. Make as many adjustments as you want and when you are 100% happy with your plan, begin writing!

Characters

Main Character (MC): _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Supporting Character: _____ Age: _____ Race: _____

Brief Backstory: _____

Conflict: _____

[illegible][illegible]

Beginning:

-

Middle:

-

End:

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