

Worksheet 15: Story Evolution

Title:

Part I: The Beginning

1. Conflict Is Introduced

Detail the major conflict:

2. Story Goal Is Introduced

Detail the major story goal:

3. Characters Are Outfitted for Their Task

List and briefly describe the characters who will be involved in reaching the story goal and defeating the conflict. Detail each character's strengths and weaknesses:

1.

2.

3.

Additional:

Part II: The Middle

1. Characters Design Short-Term Goals to Reach the Story Goal

Character 1:

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how character will reach it:

2. Quest to Reach the Story Goal Begins

Briefly detail the events that take place:

3. First Short-Term Goals Are Thwarted

Briefly detail the events that take place:

4. Characters React With Disappointment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

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Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

5. Stakes of the Conflict Are Raised

Detail new stakes of the conflict and how they affect all subplots:

6. Characters React to the Conflict

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe his reaction to the conflict:

7. Characters Revise Old or Design New Short-Term Goals

Character 1:

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how character will reach it:

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Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how character will reach it:

8. Quest to Reach the Story Goal Is Continued

Briefly detail the events that take place:

9. Short-Term Goals Are Again Thwarted

Briefly detail the events that take place:

10. Characters React With Disappointment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

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11. Stakes of the Conflict Are Raised

Detail new stakes of the conflict and how they affect all subplots:

12. Characters React to the Conflict

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the conflict:

** Items 7-10 can repeat here. This section of the cycle can repeat several times throughout the course of your novel as your characters readjust their short-term goals in order to meet their objectives.*

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13. Downtime begins

Detail the events that lead to downtime:

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction to these events:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to these events:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to these events:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to these events:

14. Characters Revise Old or Design New Short-Term Goals With Renewed Vigor

Character 1:

Briefly describe desperate short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe desperate short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe desperate short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe desperate short-term goal and how character will reach it:

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15. The Quest to Reach the Story Goal Continues, But Instability Abounds

Briefly detail the events that take place:

16. The Black Moment Begins

Briefly detail the events that take place and how they affect all subplots:

17. The Characters React to the Black Moment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Part III: The End

1. A Pivotal, Life-Changing Event Occurs

Detail this event and how it affects all subplots:

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2. Characters Modify Short-Term Goals One Last Time

Character 1:

Briefly describe final short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe final short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe final short-term goal and how character will reach it:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe final short-term goal and how character will reach it:

3. The Showdown Begins

Showdown details (including all main characters who are involved):

4. The Opposition Is Vanquished and the Conflict Ends

Details:

5. The Story Goal Is Achieved

Detail resolution plot and all subplots:

1.

2.

3.

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Additional:

6. Characters React to the Resolution of the Plot and Subplots

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe reactions to the end of the conflict:

7. The *Relationship* Black Moment Is Addressed (Romance Novels Only)

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2:

Briefly describe reaction:

8. Characters Revise Their Life Goals

Character 1:

Briefly describe life goal:

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Character 2 (Optional):

Briefly describe life goal:

Character 3 (Optional):

Briefly describe life goal:

Additional Characters (Optional):

Briefly describe life goals:

9. Possible Reemergence of the Conflict or Opposition