**Be Your Own Developmental Editor Using a Bookmap**

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* What is a book map?
  + A book map is an overview of a book, broken down scene by scene or chapter by chapter, usually in the form of a table.
* When to do your book map?
  + After you’ve written your first draft and let it sit and marinate…
    - Get emotional distance from characters/scenes
  + Take off your creative writer hat and put on your ruthless editor hat
  + Book map BEFORE you give it to beta readers/editors/etc.
  + This is for YOU, after the first draft
* You’re still going to need Beta Readers and Editors after these revisions
  + Allows you to study your plot, structure, pacing, and character development of your story as an OBJECTIVE editor
* Filling out your book map
  + Summary of the chapter/scene
  + % into story (for beats/plotting/structure info)
  + Timeline
  + How do your characters develop?
  + Where does it take place?
  + What happens in the plot/s?
  + Does the scene reinforce the theme?
* Summary of the chapter/scene
* Characters
* Plots/Themes
* Start with the big ideas!
  + Note any issues/concerns
  + Goals
  + Motivations
  + Conflicts
  + Plot moving forward
  + Story arc beats/pacing
  + Check character and emotional arcs
  + Scenes have their own checklist!
  + Start with the BIG ideas
  + Yes, you need to add visceral reactions and freshen up your clichés BUT that’s for a future round of revisions, after the STRUCTURE is ready for the paint, drapes, and carpets. ☺
* What next? GENRE PROMISES!...YOU MUST **READ YOUR GENRE**
* EXTERNAL PLOT ARC
  + Opening: 0-15%
  + Main characters introduced, world rules established, MC (Hero/heroine/protagonist) baseline – who they are in their world “before” the story
  + Inciting Incident: 10-15%
  + Protagonist’s world changes – normal world is upset
  + First Plot Point: 25% - End of Act One
  + Protagonist makes a decision to do something as a direct result of the inciting incident
  + First Pinch Point: 37.5%
  + Get an idea/hint of the antagonistic forces – something is working against the MC
  + Second Plot Point: 50% - MIDPOINT
  + Shift in protagonist’s perspective, their attitude changes from reactive to proactive!
  + Second Pinch Point: 62.5%
  + Another glimpse of antagonistic forces
  + Third Plot Point: 75% BEGIN THIRD ACT
  + Crisis – Devastating defeat
  + Dark Moment – protagonist feels that all is lost
  + CLIMAX
  + Protagonist has epiphany and can solve the problem
  + Big battle – showdown between protagonist and main antagonist
  + Resolution
  + Show how the MC’s life is different “after” the story
* INTERNAL CHARACTER ARC
  + Opening: 0-15%
    - Main characters introduced, shown in their present world… NEED/WANT is shown. Have a tangible external goal. Reveal character’s wound, hint at misbelief. Shows who they are in their world “before” the story.
  + Inciting Incident: 10-15%
  + Protagonist’s world changes – normal world is upset
  + First Plot Point: 25% - End of Act One
  + Protagonist makes a decision to do something as a direct result of the inciting incident. We see who they could become if they healed their wound.
  + First Pinch Point: 37.5%
  + Antagonistic forces trigger misbeliefs about who they are and what they are capable of.
  + Second Plot Point: 50% - MIDPOINT
  + Protagonist sees who they could be. Must decide to not go back. (Change is hard)
  + Second Pinch Point: 62.5%
  + Wound hammered hard, proof of misbelief
  + Third Plot Point: 75% BEGIN THIRD ACT
  + Crisis – Must overcome misbelief
  + Dark Moment – protagonist feels that all is lost and can never change
  + CLIMAX
  + protagonist has epiphany and desire to change
  + Big battle – Confronts what is holding them back and accepts consequences
  + Resolution
  + Show how the MC is different “after” the story, has become their best self
* Next comes scene level editing, which could/should be its own workshop!
* Resources and advice
  + Contests. There are a TON of contests out there that are free charge a nominal fee (under $50). Find one in your genre and be a judge and SUBMIT YOUR WIP!
  + Books:
    - Lisa Cron Story Genius
    - Save the Cat Writes a Novel (Save the Cat website has more beat sheets)
    - Syd Field on Screenwriting (Josh Malerman told me to read it)
    - SG Redlings recs:
      * Take Off Your Pants-Libbie Hawker
      * Johnny Shaw on Medium: Finding Your Voice and Going Too Far
* Websites (tobidoyle.com)
  + Jami Gold – for beat sheets
  + Fiction University – for writing questions
  + [https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com](https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/) KM Weiland
  + WritersHelpingWriters.net – Angela Ackerman/Becca Puglisi (Emotional Wound Thesaurus)
  + <https://writeshop.com/genres-how-to-write-a-fairy-tale/>
* Intensive Genre Weekend presented by Michael Knost and Sheila Redling–Coming in October in HUNTINGTON!!!
* Join Writing Groups and Organizations