

# Tobi's Down and Dirty Notes for the Book Mapping Workshop

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Find the internal and external arcs pdf at: [shorturl.at/fhtJS](http://shorturl.at/fhtJS)

These are just the questions you want to ask for every scene/chapter.

## Structure and Pacing:

- ▶ Use the internal/external arc pdf to help, or the plot structure you love best, like Gwen Hayes or Heroine's Journey.
- ▶ Make a note where are the pinch points (antagonist doing something) and the plot points (protagonist doing something).
- ▶ Do the math... word count to that scene divided by total word count to find how far you are into the story. Are you close to where you should be?

## Plot and Subplot Review Questions:

- ▶ Does the chapter move the plot or subplot forward? Sometimes the chapter is about the internal goals and therefore character development may occur, and a decision is made that moves the plot forward, but more words are on the character development.
- ▶ What is the goal of the scene?
- ▶ Does the goal/motivation/conflict feel contrived?
- ▶ Is the GMC genre appropriate?
- ▶ What is the main conflict of the chapter? Is it believable? Can it be "upped" to increase tension?
- ▶ Is the goal achieved or thwarted? Is there a reaction and new plan?
- ▶ MOTIVATION!!! Is the motivation believable and reasonable?
- ▶ Does the character's actions and reactions fit the situation?
- ▶ Does the character's actions fit "who" they are?
- ▶ Does the chapter start with action or reflection? (Make a note and try to mix them up.)
- ▶ Does the ending make you want to read more?
- ▶ Are there any inconsistencies (names, eye color, settings, clues, etc.)?

## Character Development Questions:

- ▶ Do ALL the characters really need to be there?
- ▶ Note: Some scenes move the main storyline forward and some scenes are mostly about the character development. Think internal versus external goals. What type of scene is this?
- ▶ Does this scene make the character question their misbeliefs (wounds) or does it reinforce their misbelief?
  - ▶ Ex) They believe they are unlovable-does this scene prove or disprove that belief
- ▶ Does this scene complicate the internal GMC? If yes, what new plan is made?

- ▶ Compare pinch/plot points to internal character arc, should you adjust some scene for pacing?
- ▶ Character interactions – make a note of interactions
- ▶ this is for your benefit – you may find that a character isn't needed or can be combined with another
- ▶ Note if any of the characterizations, descriptions, or dialogue is clichéd. This is for the NEXT draft.
- ▶ Finally, a note on diversity, equality, and inclusion...
- ▶ Do you have any diverse characters in your book? If no, is that a believable setting for your story?
- ▶ If yes, are your characters stories/backstories stereotypical? This could be problematic.
- ▶ Are the marginalized characters victims or villains? This could be problematic.

### **Setting Questions:**

- ▶ Does your setting add to the tone and mood of the story?
- ▶ Are there any motifs or images in this setting that add to the theme of the story? Could or should you add some? (DON'T OVER DO IT! SPRINKLE, DON'T DROWN)
- ▶ Time...If you've moved from one setting to the next, is there enough time in the story for it to reasonably occur? (Timeline consistency)

### **Theme, Symbols, Motifs, Imagery Questions:**

- ▶ Is your theme genre-appropriate?
  - ▶ Ex) People can't be trusted isn't appropriate for romance.
- ▶ The theme should be sprinkled throughout the book, appearing often at pinch points. Do you have a theme? Is it proven or disproven in this scene?